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King leaves Mayo Clinic in good health

AMMAN (Petra) — Medical checkups conducted on His Majesty King Hussein at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Tuesday, had proven that His Majesty is in good health, the King's private physician Samir Farraj said Tuesday. Dr. Farraj said the post-operative tests His Majesty underwent showed that there is no trace of the ailment which caused King Hussein to undergo a cancer surgery at the clinic in August 1992. Dr. Farraj said the King, who has already left the medical centre, will from now on undergo routine tests once a year, instead of the bi-annual tests. King Hussein is scheduled to hold talks with American President Bill Clinton during his stay in the U.S.

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Orient House faces seizure

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli-run Jerusalem municipality is considering seizing the bank accounts of the Palestinian headquarters in the Holy City over \$300,000 in back taxes. The municipal authorities announced in March they were checking the legal possibilities of evicting the Palestinians from the building in East Jerusalem known as Orient House, but nothing has been done. The radio report followed a rumour in the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) after Chairman Yasser Arafat called in May for a holy war to liberate Jerusalem from Jewish rule. The Israeli government has hit back with a warning that it will insist that all Palestinian government organisations must be in the self-rule areas of Gaza or Jericho and not Jerusalem. Legal measures are under consideration. However, a municipal spokeswoman could not confirm the radio story. "No decision has been taken on this subject, but we will take all adequate measures within the law to end this situation," said spokeswoman Aliza Krist. She admitted that seizing the accounts "would have an obvious political character."

Policeman dies after shot in Gaza

GAZA (R) — A Palestinian policeman died of a gunshot wound in Gaza in unclear circumstances, a Palestinian officer and Israeli Radio said on Tuesday. Khalil Abu Hamdeh, 20, was the first Palestinian policeman to die in action since police took over from Israeli troops in Gaza and Jericho five weeks ago. The officer was shot from behind about 600 metres from an Israeli military position just before midnight. He was taken to hospital and died of his wounds. But Israeli Radio said he was killed by his own gun when it misfired in unclear circumstances.

Assad, Hrawi meet

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Tuesday to coordinate Middle East peace strategy, Syria's presidential spokesman said. Spokesman Joubran Kourieh said the talks were also attended by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Kaddam. The Syrian News Agency SANA said Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Assad later held a closed-door meeting. No other details were given but the two countries were expected to reaffirm their rejection of separate peace deals with Israel, a theme which continues to dominate editorial in Syria's official newspapers. Lebanese officials said in Beirut that Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Assad would also discuss the latest series of moves toward peace announced by Jordan and Israel in Washington earlier this month.

U.N. team ends Iraq mission

BAGHDAD (R) — The United Nations said Tuesday it had destroyed Iraq's stocks of chemicals used in chemical weapons and was now working on ensuring it never made such weapons again. "The destruction process had been completed... all chemicals that are concerned with the chemical weapons programme had been destroyed," senior U.N. chemical weapons expert Ron Manley told reporters before leaving. He said the U.N., which is scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire, would now concentrate on setting up a system of monitoring. The chemicals were destroyed at Muthana, site of Iraq's biggest chemical complex, most of which was destroyed in Gulf war bombing raids.

Ibrahimi sees progress in Yemeni mediation

ADEN (Agencies) — Sporadic artillery exchanges echoed over Aden on Tuesday as a U.N. envoy reported progress in his mission to bring about a ceasefire in Yemen's six-week-old war.

Aden residents, suffering water, power and medical shortages, said battles that had raged on Monday on battlefronts around the southern stronghold eased after midnight. They said they could only hear sporadic shelling on Tuesday. "It is relatively less intense," said a southern security official. The southern defence ministry said 10 civilians, including five members of the same family, were killed by shelling on Monday in Aden, where northern forces are fighting to crush a bid by the south to secede from a united Yemen formed in 1990. Aden was declared capital of the Democratic Republic of Yemen when the south seceded on May 21. In Abu Dhabi, U.N. envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi said "the ball is starting to roll" in his mission to try to implement a U.N. ceasefire call issued on June 1. He said northern Yemen had accepted suggestions by its rivals in the south to involve neutral foreigners in a military committee that

Sanaa accepts ceasefire

THE GOVERNMENT in Sanaa on Tuesday accepted a U.N. compromise plan to establish a ceasefire in Yemen's civil war, a northern official said.

U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi has proposed that a ceasefire be supervised by a joint Yemeni committee backed by international observers, while Sanaa had previously ruled out a foreign role. "The government informed Mr. Ibrahimi of its acceptance of the plan this evening," the official said.

would try to enforce the ceasefire.

He said he was told of the north's decision early on Tuesday after he arrived in Abu Dhabi from talks with southern Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Beidh in the city of Mukalla in eastern Yemen. He had earlier met northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the capital Sanaa. "I think the interesting development is that the north accepts the idea of Yemenis and foreigners so I think that

there is something there," he added.

The new northern position is the first reported breakthrough in international and Arab efforts to stop the fighting and start dialogue in Yemen.

In meeting in Sanaa last week, Mr. Saleh told Mr. Ibrahimi the north would only talk to the south if it abandoned its declaration of secession. He also ruled out dialogue with Mr. Beidh himself.

Sanaa had last week suggested that a military committee of northern and southern Yemeni armies meet on a front line near Aden to try to enforce a ceasefire. The south rejected that and suggested a foreign role, which Sanaa turned down.

A military committee comprising Yemenis as well as French and American military attaches and Jordanian and Omani representatives had tried before the war broke out on May 4 to redeploy rival troops and ease tension between them.

Mr. Ibrahimi held talks on Tuesday with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zaid Ben Sultan Al Nahyan on Yemen. He was due to visit Qatar later on Tuesday then Jordan.

He is expected to brief

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Rabin links prisoners' fate to that of 'collaborators'

JERICHO, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Tuesday that Rabin would link further releases of Palestinian prisoners to the treatment of Palestinian collaborators receive from the new authority.

"The bunting down of collaborators is contrary to the (autonomy) agreement and we will draw the necessary conclusions for everything which is linked to the question of prisoners," Mr. Rabin said during a visit to Vered Jericho, a Jewish settlement overlooking the self-rule enclave of Jericho.

The Palestinian police in Gaza have arrested about 30 Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel. Freih Abu Middain, the "minister" for justice in the Palestinian authority, said those arrested had continued to collaborate with Israel following the Sept. 13 autonomy

agreement. They would be tried by a military court, he said, in apparent contradiction to the self-rule accords. Mr. Middain warned, "collaborators who participated in the murder of other Palestinians could be sentenced to death under article 36 of the (Egyptian) penal code in force before the 1967 occupation."

The article refers to anyone, not just collaborators, who took part in or was accomplice to murder.

Islamic fundamentalists temporarily called off the killing of suspected collaborators on May 29 — after hanging two men — to give the new police force time to show it could handle the issue.

The police on Monday warned families of murdered collaborators not to seek revenge on the killers, some 300 of whom have recently been released by Israeli.

Under the May 4 accord which launched self-rule, Israel was to set free 5,000 Palestinian prisoners by June 8 as a confidence building measure. Only 2,475 have been released so far, a human rights group said, and about 7,200 Palestinians remain in jail.

But the same article also states, "the Palestinian side commits itself to solving the problem of those Palestinians who were in contact with the Israeli authorities."

"Until an agreed solution is found the Palestinian side undertakes not to prosecute these Palestinians or to harm them in any way."

Some 5,000 Palestinians are known to have collaborated with Israel, according to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem which believes many more have never been uncovered.

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Self-rule brings optimism

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians have recovered their optimism following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from most of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, according to an opinion poll published Tuesday.

The Centre for Palestine Research and Studies found that 66.4 per cent were optimistic or relatively optimistic about the future following the initial implementation of self-rule.

Only 21.4 per cent were pessimistic and 12.2 per cent unsure.

Last February, only 39 per cent of Palestinians were optimistic about the future and 37 per cent pessimistic in a similar survey by the centre.

Some 57 per cent supported the May 4 agreement to launch autonomy. Forty per cent criticised it and three per cent were unsure.

The May 31 poll of 2,000 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank came up with 44.4 per cent support for Fateh, the main Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) movement led by Yasser Arafat. That represented seven points more for Arafat than in a previous poll last April. The Islamic Resistance

Movement, Hamas slipped to 22.3 per cent of voting intentions if elections were held now compared with 16 per cent in April.

Nationalist independents took nearly 11 per cent and another 11 per cent said they would not vote for any of the recognised groups.

A senior PLO official said Monday the PLO is considering whether to hold a referendum to allow opponents of self-rule to have their voice heard.

Saeed Erakat, who holds the portfolio of minister of local government in the Palestinian self-rule authority, said he had raised the issue of a referendum as a response to those opposed to the autonomy agreement with Israel.

"We are considering a referendum," Dr. Erakat said without specifying what question the electorate would be asked. "We have a lot of Palestinians who are not happy with autonomy. We want them to come and say why, to speak."

"But, we don't want anyone to say that it will replace elections."

Elections are due to be held on Oct. 15 for a 100-

member Palestinian legislative council and local councils.

Dr. Erakat said preparations were underway to draft the electoral system by the end of June, and local government laws would be in place by mid-July.

A referendum of the two million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would not be easy, he acknowledged, notably as self-rule in the West Bank is limited to Jericho.

"We don't know if we will have a referendum," he said. "Can we afford the costs? Can we provide the logistics? How to do it in the West Bank?"

Israel has ordered Palestinians in the Jericho self-rule area to stop planning a small airport that Mr. Yasser Arafat had been planning to use, a PLO official said on Tuesday.

"They told us to stop it because there is no final settlement over the land in terms of whether it falls inside or outside the self-rule area," the PLO official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters in Amman.

Majali heads for U.S. to join King

AMMAN (J.T) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali left for the United States on Tuesday to join His Majesty King Hussein in meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials on the Middle East peace process and American-Jordanian relations.

The King is already in the U.S. undergoing medical check-ups at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota since early Monday, reports said.

The King arrived at the clinic Sunday night from London.

The check-ups are expected to be the last in a six-monthly series the King underwent after his successful surgery at the Mayo Clinic in August 1992, from now on, it is expected that the check-ups will be annual. The date for the King's White House meeting with Mr. Clinton was not immediately known. Up

(Continued on page 9)



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali is seen off Deputy Prime Minister Thounan Hindawi and other members of the Cabinet (Petra photo) upon his departure for the U.S. on Tuesday by

Alarm mounts over Korean crisis

SEOUL (Agencies) — World leaders united in expressing alarm on Tuesday at North Korea's decision to quit the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency but there were signs of disagreement about the next move in the crisis.

U.S. President Bill Clinton voiced deep concern, Russian President Boris Yeltsin called the move "very serious" and Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata said the situation was grave.

North Korea, believed by the United States and its allies to be building nuclear weapons in defiance of the safeguards pact it signed, announced on Monday it was pulling out of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) immediately.

The agency last Friday suspended technical aid to the North after it refused access to IAEA inspectors seeking evidence of a secret nuclear bomb.

The North called the agency move a prelude to U.N. sanctions, adding: "We strongly reaffirm our position that U.N. 'sanctions' will be regarded immediately as a declaration of war."

It said it would no longer permit IAEA staff into the country but gave no indication whether it would tell two inspectors who are still there to leave.

The North did not announce withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, as it had threatened to do since March of last year. In Vienna, the IAEA said this meant it was still legally bound to accept inspections of its nuclear plants.

"The North Korean announcement appeared to be aimed at intimidating the South," said a senior aide to South Korean President Kim Young-Sam.

North Korea asked Japan not to join in the possible sanctions. A letter containing the request to Japan was adopted by a mass rally held Tuesday in Pyongyang, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

"It is a good option for the Japanese authorities not to join the international reactionaries in their reckless moves to take sanctions against the DPRK (North Korea) in a bid to stifle it," the letter said.

The rally, attended by "working people of various strata in Pyongyang," criticised a police raid earlier this

(Continued on page 9)

Lebanon says no probe into suspect's Pan Am claim

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon on Tuesday dismissed a claim attributed to a Palestinian activist that he had placed the bomb which exploded on a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988.

Yousef Shaaban "never said that he had placed the bomb in the Pan Am plane" that killed 270 people, state prosecutor Munif Oweidat said.

"But he said that under torture he was ready to confess to anything, even the Lockerbie bombing, if asked to," Oweidat said, "noting Shaaban's comments were not logged in court records because they were not connected to his trial."

The state prosecutor charges that statements attributed to Shaaban on Monday were "deformed on purpose to embarrass (Lebanese) justice," and he ruled out any investigation into the claim.

Shaaban, according to the state-run news agency ANI, told a court here that he was responsible for bombing the plane.

The 29-year-old member of Abu Nidal's hardline Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) was being heard in the murder trial of Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Al Maaytah

who was shot dead outside his Beirut home in January.

Shaaban faces a possible death penalty.

Libya said Tuesday the claim by Shaaban that he blew up the airliner absolved it of any responsibility for the bombing.

"The Palestinian citizen's claim is the latest development in what is called the Lockerbie affair and is an element which guarantees to deny the U.S. and British accusations against the two Libyan citizens," the official Libyan news agency JANA said.

The lawyer for the two Libyan suspects, Ibrahim Legwell, said in a statement to JANA that the confession by Shaaban confirmed the innocence of his clients.

Judicial sources and security forces in Lebanon and on victims' relatives have cast doubt on Shaaban's statement.

Libya is struggling under U.N. sanctions imposed in 1992 for failing to hand over the two Libyan suspects for trial in the United States or Britain.

The United States said it had no evidence to corroborate Shaaban's claim and reiterated its demand for the extradition of the two Lib-



Yousef Shaaban

byans who have been indicted in both Britain and the United States for the attack.

Barbara Bodine, the State Department coordinator on counter-terrorism, said that Shaaban "was not a suspect."

"We feel very strong evidence against the two indicted Libyans, but we are serious in following up this lead to see if there is any veracity in it at all," Ms. Bodine said.

Britain also renewed its demand that the two Libyans be brought before a Scottish or a U.S. court to answer the charges.

Rwanda tops OAU agenda; Mandela mediates on Angola

TUNIS (R) — A group of African leaders trying to arrange a ceasefire in Rwanda met on Tuesday and South African President Nelson Mandela began mediation on Angola's civil war.

How to end the Rwandan massacres was the daunting challenge facing the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit ending on Wednesday.

A closed plenary session on Tuesday afternoon was expected to produce sparks between presidents who accuse each other of stoking the fire in Rwanda.

The trial killing there since April may have wiped out as many as 500,000 people, almost all civilians.

The summit's second day began with two hours of private talks between the presidents of Rwanda's neighbours, Zaire, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania. Kenya's vice-president, heading his country's delegation at the Tunis summit, took part.

They issued no statement but were due to meet again in the afternoon aiming to agree a resolution calling for a ceasefire.

Penalty talks on Rwanda were delayed by hours of long prepared speeches by presidents.

Mr. Mandela, the towering

presence at his first OAU summit as president of black Africa's most powerful country, began a schedule of some 30 private meetings with heads of state.

On Tuesday morning he met Angola's Eduardo Dos Santos and Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko separately and aides said he was to meet them again later in the day.

"We have discussed the question of Angola... the meeting was very positive," Mr. Mandela said after seeing Mr. Mobutu, who appeared to be acting as go-between for Angola's absent UNITA rebels.

The Angolan civil war continues unabated despite some progress at peace talks in Zambia.

Mr. Mandela, whose open and easy manner is a striking contrast with many other security-obsessed presidents, helped attract 42 of the OAU's 53 heads of state to Tunis.

Unlike most summits, almost all stayed for the second day, reflecting a common view that either Africa solves its problems or it sinks further into chaos and poverty. Only Egypt's Hosni Mubarak and Senegal's Abdou Diouf had left by Tuesday morning.

But the presidents consult-

ing on Rwanda are bitterly divided.

Zaire's Mobutu is seen as the champion of Rwanda's ramp government, composed of the majority Hutu tribe, while Uganda is openly accused of backing the mainly Tutsi rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

Even if they reach agreement in public there was little optimism in Tunis that the fighting will stop.

"All this talk is a waste of time. There just has to be a winner on the ground. That would be a relief for everyone," a senior West African delegate commented.

Rwanda's interim president, Theodore Sindikubwabo, called on the RPF, in Tunis as observers, to enter direct talks with the government, but the text of the speech he was due to make at the summit was angry and uncompromising.

Accusing Uganda of "hegemonic designs" on Rwanda, he described the RPF guerrillas as "bordes" and said their movement "maintains its policy of ruthless extermination of the Hutu ethnic group."

Mr. Museveni and the RPF have powerful supporters at the summit who blame Rwanda's Hutu government for most of the massacres.

Petra Bank liquidators push drive to collect successful court claims

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A public notice served on a defunct London-based firm to pay JD 3.76 million to a committee liquidating Petra Bank is only a legal requirement with little prospect for collecting the money, given the fact that the company has "disappeared," a key official said on Tuesday.

Bassam Attari, a senior member of the government-appointed committee liquidating Petra Bank, once Jordan's second-largest commercial bank, said the committee had rung up for more than JD 17 million dinars in cases it won against Ahmad Chalabi and members of his family.

Petra Bank ran into serious trouble in 1989, prompting the government's Economic Security Committee to take it over. Dr. Chalabi, an Iraqi who founded and ran the bank as what many experts describe as a one-man operation, fled the country. So did all other members of his family and close associates.

The government pumped in more than JD 200 million to protect depositors' interest and managed the institution until April 1990, when it ordered the bank liquidated. Dr. Chalabi and 15 others — mostly Chalabi family members — were tried in absentia and found guilty of embezzling the bank's funds and speculating in the national currency. They were sentenced to prison terms and heavy fines.

The liquidation committee released an advertisement in the local media on Tuesday serving notice on SCF Company of London to pay an outstanding due of JD 3.7

million.

"We hereby give you final warning to settle (the amount) within 30 days (from May 31, 1994). Otherwise we shall regretfully take all necessary legal procedures to collect the rights of Petra Bank," it said.

Mr. Attari told the Jordan Times that the committee had found that the SCF Company was "under the full control" of Ahmad Chalabi before it "disappeared" a few days after Petra Bank was ordered liquidated.

"Our London lawyers advised us that (SCF Company) had no offices, no address and no telephone number," said Mr. Attari, adding that the firm was operated by Hussein Chalabi, a cousin of Ahmad Chalabi.

Mr. Attari said the committee had a total of 37 cases against Dr. Chalabi and his family members, relatives and close associates who figured high in the spurious operations that led to the collapse of Petra Bank.

He said the committee had won 13 cases. "Judgements in other cases are not final yet," he said.

Dr. Chalabi is believed to be living in London, from where he is playing out the self-assumed role of an Iraqi dissident opposed to the government of President Saddam Hussein.

He is on the 17-member leadership council of the Iraqi National Congress and is believed to be the main man behind the regular issuance of press releases and statements on behalf of the congress.

Other members of the Chalabi family are scattered around the world. Some are believed to be living in Europe, some in the Far East



Ahmad Chalabi

and others in the United States.

Earlier reports said the Jordanian government had approached the Paris-based International Police Organisation (Interpol) seeking the arrest and extradition of the convicts in the Petra Bank case. But, according to experts in international law, extradition is not possible without the consent of the host government and it was almost impossible to get any of the Chalabis extradited based on the ruling of the State Security Court, a military tribunal.

"Most governments refuse to entertain extradition requests based on military court verdicts," said one expert. It was not immediately known whether the authorities planned to cite the civil court verdict to seek the extradition of the fugitive banker and other defendants found guilty.

The State Security Court sentenced Dr. Chalabi to 35 years in prison and a fine of \$46 million, the amount the

tribunal found that the Iraqi banker had embezzled from Petra Bank.

Ali Sarraf, who headed the foreign exchange operations of Petra Bank, was also given a similar jail sentence and others were handed down stiff jail terms. All of them were tried in absentia.

The liquidating committee's successful claim against SCF Company was the sole court ruling against that particular firm among the many European- and Middle East-based companies which operated under the direct or indirect control of Dr. Chalabi.

Mr. Attari, who served as general manager of Petra Bank between the time it was taken over by the government and ordered liquidated, said that the committee left the door open for other lawsuits as and if warranted.

Two Geneva-based banking institutions with extensive operations in Lebanon were the leading "front companies" for Dr. Chalabi, according to the findings of an inquiry committee of experts whose report was one of the key elements in the trial of Dr. Chalabi and others by the State Security Court more than two years ago.

Those two firms have also gone bust, with no legal trace of its former operatives.

The report of the investigating committee has also been introduced as part of other civil lawsuits filed by the liquidation committee.

Asked how the committee intended to collect its claims, given that none of the defendants are present in Jordan and their whereabouts are "unknown" in most cases, Mr. Attari said: "We have our own means and ways, but prefer not to make any public comment on the issue."

Slovenia opens consulate in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister Ljudevit Peterle Tuesday opened a consulate for Slovenia in Amman and held a reception at the Amman Marriott Hotel to celebrate the occasion. Issa Murad, honorary consul of Slovenia in Jordan told the Jordan Times that the move would pave the ground for raising the level of diplomatic representation to the embassy level at a later stage.

Mr. Peterle, who arrived Tuesday in Amman met Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan to discuss relations and prospects for economic, scientific and trade relations.

Mr. Peterle was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that his country appreciates Jordan's constructive and active role in the Middle East peace process.

Slovenia is concerned with promoting relations with Jordan because the country was



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday meets with visiting Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister Ljudevit Peterle who arrived at the head of a delegation for talks on promoting trade and economic cooperation (Petra photo)

one of the first to recognise Slovenia following the break up of former Yugoslavia, said Mr. Peterle who is accompanied by an official delegation.

Expressing his pleasure at visiting Jordan, Mr. Peterle said he hoped he would discuss with Industry and Trade

Minister Rima Khalaf prospects for economic and trade cooperation before he leaves the country for home Wednesday.

It is hoped that the consulate, located on Mecca Street, would soon be transformed into an embassy to further boost bilateral ties he

said. Mr. Murad, as well as Mr. Al Hassan and Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Al Hadid, were among the Jordanian officials to welcome Mr. Peterle and his delegation upon his arrival in Amman.

Senior RJ executives reshuffled

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier on Tuesday announced major changes involving senior RJ staff.

Under the changes, made by RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Mahmoud Balqaz, Nader Al Dahabi was appointed first deputy chief executive officer.

Mr. Dahabi retained his direct supervisory responsibility for the engineering and maintenance department and

the administrative control over the planning and management control departments.

Aqel Biltaji was named vice president of investments and Zeid Kilani was appointed advisor to the president.

Omar Zokash was named vice president of information systems.

Zuheir Zahman was named vice president of administration and procure-

ments, and Musa Anz as vice president of management control.

Ghassan Ali was named deputy vice president of finance and Majdi Sahri as deputy vice president of marketing and sales.

Samer Majali was named vice president of airport and in-flight services, and Ihsan Naghawi as assistant vice president of planning. Mr. Balqaz also named captain George Matta as assistant

vice president of the operations control centre, and transferred Fathi Salem to the finance department to assume his new duties as assistant vice president for accounts.

Mr. Balqaz decided to attach Alia Gateway Hotel, the duty free shop, the RJ supply section training centre, Royal Tours, Alia Hospitality Services and the passengers' boutique to the investments department.

Ceremony marks completion of RSS-JICA project

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ceremony was held Tuesday at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) marking the completion of the RSS Computer Technology Development and Training Centre Project which was established through cooperation between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), RSS and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (JCST), an RSS statement said.

The centre aims at introducing and developing computer technology, following up the new developments in this field and training manpower in the field of computer by holding long-term and

short-term training courses in order to contribute to the socio-economic development of Jordan.

It was supplied with modern equipment, advanced main-frame and micro computer sets, and necessary software to enable it to carry out its duties at the national and pan-Arab levels.

The centre began last year to organise advanced training courses for Jordanian and Arab specialists and technicians.

Three long-term courses entitled "Senior Programmer" and three others entitled "System Engineering" have so far been held with the participation of 127 trainees

including several from Syria, Egypt, Bahrain, Oman, Yemen and Mauritania.

Attending Tuesday's ceremony which marked the formal handing over of the centre's operations to Jordan, were Ikeda Yuji, the Japanese ambassador in Amman, the representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency in Amman, and several guests.

Mr. Yuji addressed the gathering saying that the project symbolises the close and long-lasting cooperation and friendship between Jordan and Japan. Praising RSS's technical and manpower capabilities, Mr. Yuji said that this stems from RSS's

continued commitment to achieving further scientific knowledge and its strenuous endeavours to acquire the latest in the field of science and technology.

He added that Japanese assistance to Jordan aims generally at bolstering the socio-economic development process in the country.

Hani Mulki, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology and RSS president, pointed to Jordanian-Japanese cooperation as playing a key role in developing Jordanian expertise and enhancing the country's role and its contribution to the field of science and technology.

Shaath settles in Gaza, says democracy a must

RAFAH (Agencies) — Nabil Shaath, the chief Palestinian autonomy negotiator, entered the Gaza Strip on Tuesday after spending almost the whole of his life in exile.

A delegation of senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials turned out to greet Mr. Shaath, who will take up the post of "minister" for cooperation and planning in the new Palestinian self-rule authority.

PLO official said the 55-year-old businessman, who owns a computer software company, would settle in Gaza and prepare for the arrival of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is expected late this month or in early July.

Dr. Shaath was chauffeured from Cairo in a black Peugeot 505.

He paid a 24-hour visit to Gaza City on May 19-20, bringing thousands of dollars to pay the New Palestinian police force.

The officials who met him on the Israeli side of the Rafah border terminal on Tuesday said he would be carrying large amounts of money again.

He was accompanied by the PLO's representative in Cairo, Zuhdi Al Kadra, who was not expected to stay long on the Strip, as well as two of his three children.

The Shaaths would live temporarily in a new seafloor

hotel in Gaza Strip. Born in 1938 of a Palestinian father and a Lebanese mother in Safed, Galilee, his family left for Egypt at the age of 10 when Israel was created in 1948.

He studied in Alexandria before leaving for the United States in 1959 where he became president of the Arab Students' Organisation. In 1965 he returned to Egypt and took up an active role in political life.

The 1967 Middle East war prompted Dr. Shaath to renew links with the Palestinian movement and within two years he left for Beirut. It was while teaching at the American University of Beirut that he became a leading spokesman for Fatah, Mr. Arafat's mainstream PLO faction.

However, differences with the PLO leadership at the start of the civil war saw him return to Egypt in 1976.

During the 1982 invasion of Lebanon by Israel, Dr. Shaath defended the Palestinian cause in Europe and the United States.

A widower, Dr. Shaath describes himself as a born optimist and prides himself on never having been on the PLO payroll.

Dr. Shaath said the benefits of the independent Palestinian authority were coming through. The first identity cards were issued a few days ago, passports were

being printed and free passage between Gaza and Jericho would start next week, with Palestinian officers on the borders.

He said the Palestinian embassy in Cairo would start issuing visas to visitors to Gaza and Jericho within two weeks.

Dr. Shaath said negotiations between the PLO and Israel would resume as soon as possible to spread the Palestinian authority over the West Bank, to complete business in Gaza and Jericho and to proceed with the committee for the return of Palestinians displaced since 1967.

"My country will never be a suitcase," Dr. Shaath said on his departure from Cairo, horrifying a verse from Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish that has become a slogan for exiled Palestinians.

"We are going back for good," said Dr. Shaath, visibly moved.

"But I feel I will always be a part of Egypt and that Egypt will always be in my heart," said Dr. Shaath, noting his wife was an Egyptian and his sons had also married Egyptians.

He bade farewell to the journalists who had banded him throughout the complicated autonomy negotiations between the PLO and Israel. "It is a very important day in my life. I am full of hope," Dr. Shaath told a news conference before leaving Cairo.



Nabil Shaath

Responding to Palestinian opposition group's fears that Mr. Arafat would run the new self-rule areas autocratically, he said democracy was a must. He hoped Mr. Arafat would be there "within the next 10 days."

"I assure you of my commitment and that of our leadership to democracy. If some of our leaders close up and decide they want to make Lilliputian dictatorship it will mean the end of Palestine vis-a-vis its people and the world," he said.

"I am going home with a feeling that the donors are behind us, that the world is behind us."

Dr. Shaath played down threats by the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements against Palestinian officials for signing a peace agreement with Israel.

"I hope we will be just, fair, democratic leaders and builders and I hope that this will get us protection from the people themselves, by the people themselves," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Two-Two
17:30 N.B.A. sport
18:30 News in French
18:45 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Coach
21:00 A Kind of Magic
21:30 The World of The Thirties
22:00 News in English
22:30 Poldark

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:30 Dhuhr
16:16 Asr
19:07 Maghrib
21:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swalib, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Aussa International Church Tel. 652526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 812195.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 18/24

Aqaba 21/29

Deserts 17/37

Jordan Valley 22/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 34, Aqaba 39, Humidity

readings: Amman 19 per cent.

Aqaba 23 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Nidal Dahbi 827195

Dr. Bassam Karadshch 799200

Dr. Yahya Abdul Salam 736672

Dr. Ghazi Abu Shekha 750405

Fire pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637025

Najroukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Najroukh pharmacy 635672

Shmeitan pharmacy 637660

Najroukh pharmacy 635672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRID: Dr. Ali Al Shogairi 246140

Al Ouds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Rajeh Saqr 901290

Khalid pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Kesoc 636441

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891226

Blood Bank 77121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 638321

Hotel Complaints 602800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 121

Telephone Information 101030

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 661101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 77111

Jordan Television 774111

Radio Jordan 680100

Water Authority 815615

Jordan Electricity Authority

Electric Power Company 636361

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Int'l Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644381/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 644441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malha, J. Amman 636140

Palatine, Shmeitan 6617114

Shmeitan Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Nusheir Hospital 6672779

The Islamic, Abdali 6617797

Al-Abi, Abdali 661164n

Italian, Al-Muhajirin 77101/3

Al-Bahri, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, M.arka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)980560

Green Catholic Hospital (02)77275

Ibn Al Nafos Hospital (02)347100

IBRID: Princess Basma Hospital 10275553

Green Catholic Hospital (02)77275

AQABA: Ibn Al Nafos Hospital 102347100

Princess Haya Hospital 101314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200.

CDD rescues trapped youth

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After being trapped between rocks for more than four hours in steep valley, a 17-old-old youth Tuesday was rescued by a Civil Defence Department (CDD) team.

According to Captain Abdul Ra'ouf Ma'aytah, the CDD was notified at approximately 6 p.m. Monday evening that a youth was trapped in a valley in Al Sikiemeh town near Baqaa.

Capt. Ma'aytah told the Jordan Times that the rescue operation began at about 8 p.m. and lasted till 3 a.m. the next day.

"It was a troublesome task because it was at night and it was difficult for the CDD

team to reach the area where the youth was trapped," Capt. Ma'aytah said.

He added that the rescue team used ropes to cross the 400-metre distance to reach the trapped boy.

"We were contacted by the police department who advised us to wait until next day to save the youth by helicopter, but we decided that we could go on using our equipment," he added.

The boy, Ashraf M. Adwan, had gone hunting for birds with some of his friends in that area. While reaching for a birds nest, he slipped between the rocks, the report said.

Ashraf's friends tried to rescue him but failed and decided to call for help.

The boy was reported in good condition.

Nine people were injured Monday in Karak after a fight erupted between two tribes regarding grazing sheep, a police report said.

Without naming the tribes involved, the report said, the fight started when the sheep belonging to five shepherds grazed from a fodder that belonged to a group of seven shepherds.

The argument turned into a first fight and nine people were taken to hospitals.

All nine injured in the brawl were listed in fair to good condition.

Police said they detained the rest pending further investigation into the case.

Experts study projects to preserve Petra

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Petra, Jordan's main tourist attraction and most valuable archaeological site, is in need of protection and preservation if its magnificence is to survive, according to participants in the panel discussion held at the Friends of Archaeology Centre (FOA) Monday evening.

Under the title "Is Petra endangered?" the panel, described by FOA President Rami Khoury as people who want to raise awareness of archaeology, talked about plans for preserving Petra and protecting it from the destructive elements of weather.

Abd Al Ilah Abu Ayyash, assistant of the secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, discussed the objectives and activities of the ministry's Petra Higher Committee

(PHC) saying that "it is high time for the government to start moving" in the direction of developing Petra as the "centre of a touristic circular movement in the country."

Dr. Abu Ayyash said that the development of Petra should go hand in hand with protecting it from national environmental threats. Saying that approximately 3,000 tourists visit the ancient city daily, a master plan to handle issues of infrastructure of hotels, roads and parking areas is being drawn by the government.

He also stressed the "real" need for the formation of a greater municipality in the area to include the surroundings of Petra, such as Wadi Mousa and Taybeh, to improve facilities and services. These include the sewage system, electricity, communication and health services.

Tourism management, he said, is crucial in light of the

rising interest of the private sector to invest in the touristic area. "We expect the establishment of 19 hotels by the year 1997," said Dr. Abu Ayyash, saying that JD35 million are currently invested in the trade.

Talal Akasheh, of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), explained the scientific and technological aspects of protecting Petra.

He questioned the advantages and disadvantages of excavations, exploration as well as restoration of the rose-red city.

He said that many considerations have to be studied before embarking on any tourist attraction activities — mainly the preservation of Petra's cultural heritage.

Dr. Akasheh said that the HCST has been involved in documentation of Petra's monuments and assessing the damage of wind and water

erosion on them in order to "keep tap on evolving weathering processes."

The German and Japanese governments are involved in projects in Petra whereby training is provided for students of archaeology at Irhid's Yarmouk University by German experts, while the Japanese government has a research team involved in geochemical documentation of the rocks of Petra, according to Dr. Akasheh.

He added that Petra can only be protected and preserved if the inhabitants of the areas surrounding it are aware of the urgency and importance of conserving the unique and precious city.

"People around Petra need to be amongst those most interested in the protection of Petra," he said.

Moreover, a UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) team of experts is

involved in drawing the master plan to preserve the city's rich archaeological treasures with the help of local and international experts, said Anna Paolini, an Italian scholar who has done extensive research in Petra.

The eight-member team has evaluated the seriousness of water-caused soil erosion in the site. The experts are also working on introducing a plan for developing Wadi Mousa to make it more touristically oriented, Ms. Paolini said.

After discussing the numerous projects taking place at Petra and their impact on the area, the panel, concluded its session by stressing the need for cooperation between the various parties concerned to successfully achieve their common priority, which is the development and preservation of the ancient city of Petra.

French gifts of music

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ageless songs, distinguished charm and genuine French spirit will be the gifts Adrienne will bring with her this week from France to entertain audience in Jordan.

The celebrated pianist, Roger Pouly, will accompany her graceful singing.

Opening the French week at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Adrienne will give two concerts; on Thursday and Friday. The musical event is presented by Air France and the French Cultural Centre in Amman.

Far from modern, ephemeral trends, ignoring pale imitations of Anglo-Saxon rock music that the French airwaves too often carry, Adrienne's songs belong to the admirable repertoire of stylish French music with themes that never die.

Her interpretation, on her last compact disc (CD), of standards like "Les feuilles mortes," "Que reste-t-il de nos amours" or "Syracuse" in addition to her own compositions, brings a fresh breeze of pure French poetry, perfectly channelled by her soft, weightless, well balanced voice.

Roger Pouly is a star by himself, having released several CDs of superb



Adrienne "piano-har" instrumental music. The Adrienne and Roger Pouly duo is a living, musical demonstration of French savoir-faire.

WHAT'S GOING ON

WORLD CUP USA 1994
Arabic language video series of world cup football matches entitled "World Cup USA 1994" at the American Center auditorium (4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.)

CONCERT
Concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM AND SLIDE SHOW
Film in English entitled "The Deep Sleep" at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 695291).
Slide show entitled "Contemporary American Printmaking And The Work Of Larry Thomas" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lwaidbeh at 6:00 p.m. (Tel. 643251/2).

SEMINAR
Seminar in Arabic entitled "Environmental Variation: Its Meanings and Importance for Humanity" by Dr. Adnan Al Biri and Dr. Dawoud Al 'Isawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
Exhibition by plastic artist Shawkat Al Alousi at Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 672872).
Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.
Exhibition of photographs by artist Khaled Sa'id at the Royal Cultural Centre.
Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Baqaa Art Gallery (Tel. 728677).

ICARDA to start 2-day workshop on natural resources management

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Specialists today will start a two-day workshop on biodiversity and natural resources management in the Near East region.

Organised by ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) at the Amman Marriott Hotel, the workshop will bring together delegates from Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Turkey to discuss ways to protect soil and water resources and stem desertification in their regions through the implementation of a wide-scale programme on 'biodiversity and natural resources management,' according to ICARDA Coordinator for the West Asia Region Nasri Haddad.

Dr. Haddad told the Jordan Times that the workshop, which will be attended by ICARDA Director General Nasrat Fadda along with ten senior scientists from the centre, is expected to work out details of a proposal to be presented to donor nations for financing nature-safeguard programmes in the Near East.

In the meeting, which will be opened by Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif, the delegates are also expected to discuss ways of protecting the environment guided by recommendations passed by the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992, according to Dr. Haddad.

He said the meeting is organised in conjunction with the International Plan Genetic Resource Institute and will focus on ways to ensure sustainable agricultural and rural development and methods of dealing with drought and the management of land sustainability.

It is hoped, he said, that the delegates and ICARDA will reach agreement on a defined proposal to initiate the project for the best interest of the countries in the Near East.

According to the ICARDA official, the workshop complements in some way ICARDA's endeavours to develop agriculture, farming and pasture lands in the Arab World.

For instance, he said, the so-called 'Mashreq project' which is being implemented in Arab countries has similar objectives and aims at helping these nations increase productivity of barley, forage and sheep.

One such Mashreq project is being conducted in Morocco and another in Syria, Iraq and Jordan, Dr. Haddad said.

He added that the five-year project in Syria, Iraq and Jordan will be completed this year and ICARDA is planning a renewed mandate in the three Arab states.

Through this project ICARDA is providing expertise for agricultural activities and for training national staff, and it has been transferring technology to farmers and sheep owners.

Last week, said Dr. Haddad, a 10-member group representing experts and officials from Iraq, Syria, and Jordan visited ICARDA projects in Morocco and familiarised themselves with the progress of work on farmlands and food production programmes as well as other relevant activities conducted under ICARDA supervision and help.

SAMSUNG

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WELCOME TO JORDAN

환영합니다

Middle East Bloc Meeting

Ahmed Issa Murad & Sons Co.

Jordan Times

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The message from Europe

THE RESULTS of the elections for the European Parliament this week should carry no surprises. They are telling indications of people's frustration with the status quo both on the internal and external scenes. The fact that the parties in power, whether the left or the right, have suffered equal setbacks in their bids for the Strasbourg assembly reflects a clear dissatisfaction by the electorate with the policies that the European governments are pursuing.

The policies of the British Conservatives and the Spanish Socialists, to take two opposites, have in the past two years come under increasing pressure for failing to address growing economic and social problems.

The European ruling parties seem to be oblivious to the growing restlessness the voters are showing over the handling of the European Union affairs and the integration and stabilisation of Europe.

But the Europeans, no matter how genuine and profound their problems are, are to be envied. Thousands of millions of people — poor and downtrodden — cannot even have a say in the way they are being governed, let alone be able to change their government.

What many of the West European leaders fail to see in their quest for a grand Europe is that deep in Europeans' thought is a very genuine concern not only for their own wellbeing but for others inside and outside the continent whose fate will eventually have its reverberations in Europe.

While the European leaders press ahead towards a united Europe, it seems that this grand objective is blinding their eyes to the plight of the Bosnians, the Algerians, the Afghans, the Rwandans, and the Irish.

Europe, especially with its past record, cannot turn a blind eye to the plight of all those people. Peace and prosperity in Western Europe cannot be expected to hold for another 50 years while people on its western, eastern and southern frontiers are in turmoil. Europe, the cradle of Western civilisation has a moral obligation to lead and to lend a helping hand to those in dire need. By doing that, it will be protecting its future.

West European leaders cannot just wash their hands of Eastern Europe and Africa and ask America to lead. The U.S. has a long history of not wanting to act as a world leader. This has been demonstrated during World War II, during which the U.S. balked from the war for five years. The domestic challenges which will force the U.S. to look forward in the near future will leave a vacuum that Europe is best qualified to fill.

We in the Middle East look at Europe with great concern. We want the European experiment to work and succeed. We hope for it to engulf the whole of Europe. But we also look on Europe for partnership as do African and East Europeans. And unless Europe recognises the hopes, aspirations and needs of its neighbours, its experiment could fall victim to conflicts that will start elsewhere, but will end up breaking through the doors of the Continent.

Also, while the leaders of Europe can keep all the problems surrounding the Continent at a distance in the short term, they cannot keep the images of misery and strife from reaching into every European home. Considering Europe's history and past involvement in the current troubled parts of the world, these images are sure to stir some discontent.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the Arab League is displaying total impotence in dealing with Arab issues, more and more Arab countries are seeking international help for settling conflicts in the region, said Al Rai Arabic daily. The paper said the Arab summit institution is also showing no desire to tackle issues of concern to the Arab World, prompting Arab governments to seek foreign help all the time. One stark example is the conflict in Yemen, where all Arab mediation efforts failed and where the Arab League proved unable to stop the fratricidal fighting, prompting Yemeni leaders on both sides to seek U.N. assistance to arrange for a ceasefire and to end the bloody war, said the paper. Indeed, said the paper, mistrust among the Arab leaders and failure on the part of the Arab League to act promptly to deal with emergencies have left a vacuum for foreigners to fill. The paper said before the Yemeni crisis, the Arabs opened their doors wide to the American-led coalition which wreaked havoc in Iraq, causing untold sufferings for the Iraqi people. The paper expressed hope that the U.N. envoy Alakhdar Al Ibrahim will eventually find a way for settling the conflict in Yemen and avert foreign interference.

Washington Watch

Arab-Americans and their self definition at a time of change

By James Zogby

CAUGHT IN the confusion of current events, the Arab-American community is facing challenges both to its self-identity and to the direction of its political organisations. This month's issue of a Washington area Arab-American magazine even reports that one Arab-American leader is thinking of resigning his position both because he is disillusioned with the Israeli-Palestinian accord and because he is finding it difficult to define a political agenda that makes sense within the new political context.

The need to rethink the role of Arab-American organisations and their political agenda is not a task to be taken lightly or to be feared. The end of the cold war, the Gulf war and the ongoing Middle East peace process have all played a part in creating a new political reality both in the United States and in the Middle East. Such a transition cannot help but be traumatic for any group of leaders or peoples used to operating for decades under assumptions that are suddenly no longer valid.

Many Arab-Americans consider themselves "exiles" and because they do not define themselves fully as Americans, they do not participate in American politics or culture. Their approach to politics and to the Middle East reflects their inability to make the leap from there to here. They continue to frame issues in the language and ideologies of the past and cannot grasp that doors are open to our community that have never been opened before. For them, the overriding issues are not the struggles facing the American people but rather the regional, ideological and political struggles "back home."

Some Arab-American political organisations have allowed this mindset to set the tone and agenda of their political work and their own identity. By defining themselves as outsiders with a non-American agenda, they ensure that they and those they represent will remain on the margins of American political and cultural life.

To define oneself in this way reduces Arab-Americans to the status of mere surrogates for various Arab regimes, causes or principles and those who embrace this attitude become half people, neither fully Arab — because they do not live in the Arab World — nor fully American, because they have refused to participate as Americans in the American cultural and political scene.

This status of "exile" is perhaps fruitful for intellectuals, writers and artists. The isolation imposed by separation can be a powerful incentive to work and create, to struggle to assist the transformation of the old country and the old ways that still dominate there. Exiles from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and elsewhere have all made great contributions not only to American culture, but to their homelands. Even so, a divided self cannot thrive forever. To live as an

outsider makes psychic and cultural demands too difficult for most people to sustain indefinitely. Sooner or later, one must find home — either by going back or by staying and assimilating. That is the experience of every immigrant group and Arab-Americans will be no different.

For the vast majority of Arab-Americans, the 70 per cent born in the United States and the larger part of the recent immigrant community, the choice has been made. They are Americans who can see no benefit from accepting a surrogate status. These Arab-Americans see themselves as a component group within American society and they seek to participate in and enjoy being a part of the complex cultural mosaic of the United States.

For this group the challenges posed by the new era are interesting and exciting. For example, the shifting of the political landscape brought about by the Israeli-PLO mutual recognition has enabled Arab-Americans to gain unprecedented access and acceptance as a political and ethnic constituency. They are benefiting as a community from greater political opportunities. Their challenge is how to shore up their position given the new atmosphere while at the same time maintaining their role as a bridge to the Arab World and its people.

Fundamentally, they reject not only self isolation but the efforts of political adversaries to isolate them by portraying them as foreigners who somehow do not belong in the United States. The vast majority of Arab-Americans have not only steadfastly rejected such characterisations, but they have organised politically to defeat those who are trying to relegate them to second-class status. There have been instances where they turned the tables on Arab haters by isolating them from their own party and political constituency.

Likewise, these Arab-Americans are not reacting defensively because suddenly there are doors open that have never been open before. Rather, they are seeking to gain admittance for as many Arab-Americans as possible. They have digested the nature of politics — doors must be pushed, but once they are open it is up to a given group or political constituency to parlay access into opportunity, power, and policy.

And recognising the new realities has enabled Arab-Americans to empower themselves by becoming full players in the U.S. political process.

The agenda has three parts:

1. To empower Arab-Americans in the political mainstream.

This effort requires setting up a system through which qualified Arab-Americans can be considered for appointments or jobs at all levels of local, state and federal

government. It also means supporting Arab-Americans candidates as well as those candidates who best represent their political concerns and agendas. This requires a sophisticated approach that does not turn on a given election or a single position of a candidate. Politics is not only about electing friends, but also about trying to turn enemies into allies.

The most obvious manifestations of political support are raising money and getting out the vote and this requires full participation in all aspects of the political process: Joining political parties; working in political campaigns and mobilising the Arab-Americans community into a voter bloc that can make a difference in electoral politics.

2. To create a role for Arab-Americans in the policy debate over Middle East peace and U.S.-Arab relations.

Once access is gained and credibility earned, Arab-Americans must try to responsibly contribute to the policy debates that affect them as Americans and as Arab-Americans. Arab-Americans have been doing this to a significant degree since the Clinton administration took power, on issues ranging from the peace process and Palestinian rights to health care and immigration.

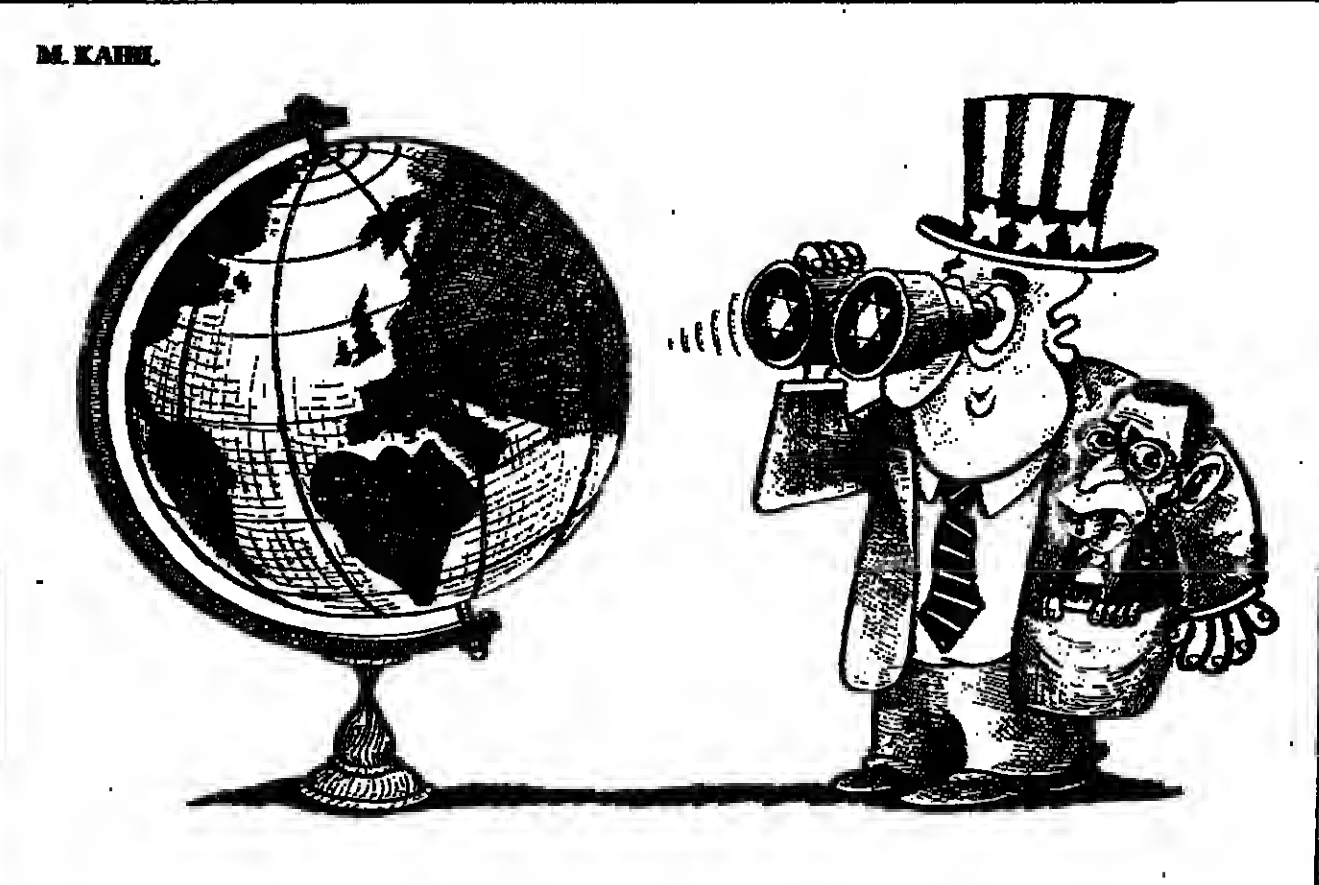
To most effectively play this role, Arab-Americans must seek to define themselves in terms of the unique status they have in American society. They are, in fact, Americans who can act as a bridge between two worlds. They can translate Arab concerns into the U.S. policy debate and also communicate the U.S. political process and U.S. policy to the Arab World. At the same time, as an extraordinarily successful ethnic community, Arab-Americans need to protect the inherited values of their Arab culture and tradition to the broader U.S. policy debate on domestic social issues.

3. Finally, politically empowered Arab-Americans should seek to understand the needs of their community.

But assessing needs without laying out a strategy to meet those needs will in the long run be futile, too. There are limited resources available to all Americans these days, not just Arab-Americans, and so a plan must be drawn up that shows how and where to best channel community resources.

A survey of Arab-American community needs has been done in several cities around the country. It shows that Arab-Americans, like all Americans, have a broad range of needs, some special and some common to others in our society: our immigrants need social services; access to health care; Arab-American grocers in the inner cities need protection and security from crime; many of our children need bilingual education or assistance.

The plan that must now be developed is a political one — how to access the agencies of government and the institutions in U.S. society in order to provide Arab-Americans with the support to meet the needs identified.



Racial wounds are hard to heal

By Lawrence Bartlett
Agence France Presse

HARARE — As South Africa sets out to heal the wounds of racial conflict, recent events in neighbouring Zimbabwe show that the scars last a long time.

Fourteen years after the end of white rule and more than a century after colonisation, a white family's plan to commemorate the arrival of their ancestors by ox-wagon has been denounced as threatening a race war.

The spectre of war was raised by both Vice-President Joshua Nkomo, who has been making increasingly vitriolic attacks on whites in recent months, and by Deputy Government Minister Simon Moyo.

Mr. Nkomo, who repeated an earlier warning of civil war, said whites who "perpetuate racial friction" should "move out of our country before it is too late."

At the centre of the latest row is the Rosenfelds family, which farms in the Muruma ranching area some 70 kilometres west of Bulawayo.

They were planning a private family reunion on one of their farms, including a 20 kilometres trip in an ox-wagon, following the road used by family patriarch Max Rosenfeld when he settled there in July

1894 after trekking north from South Africa.

But when their plans came to the attention of Mr. Moyo, the MP for the area, he said "unrepentant white settlers" were planning to celebrate the defeat of the Ndebele kingdom of Lobengula, which was subjugated by white occupation forces a century ago last October.

He said if they went ahead it would be a declaration of war and "they will profusely regret their racist appetite and misguided action."

"There remains a deep-seated resentment of white wealth disproportionate to their numbers, and the government's plans over the past two years to nationalise millions of hectares of white-owned land for the resettlement of blacks have brought smouldering discontent to the surface."

Although he did not name the Rosenfelds and said the plans involved a column of horsemen and ox-wagons riding into the city of Bulawayo, it is clear that he was talking about the family.

"It is a total misunderstanding," said Max Rosenfeld, great-grandson of the original settler. "We are simply celebrating our 100

years as Zimbabweans. There was no intention to offend anyone."

"This is our home. We are proud to be here. Why shouldn't we celebrate?"

Mr. Rosenfeld, a fluent Ndebele speaker, was chosen by President Robert Mugabe in 1990 as an MP for the ruling ZANU (FF) party.

Misunderstanding or not, the reactions of Mr. Moyo and Mr. Nkomo demonstrate how fragile is the veneer of racial reconciliation in Zimbabwe nearly a decade-and-a-half after the

share their wealth and land with blacks.

"Whites have continued shunning us," he said in his latest outburst.

But Mr. Mugabe has also joined the offensive against whites, accusing them last month of supporting opposition parties in an attempt to regain power behind a black front.

The continual sniping at whites has been condemned by some independent black-owned local newspapers, with the Financial Gazette writing that: "We should resist with all our might a damaging propagation of race hatred."

Political analysts suggest that whites are simply being used as political whipping boys for the hard economic times the country is going through ahead of elections early next year.

But there remains a deep-seated resentment of white wealth disproportionate to their numbers, and the government's plans over the past two years to nationalise millions of hectares of white-owned land for the resettlement of blacks have brought smouldering discontent to the surface.

Land reform is one of the issues South Africa also faces as the country's first black government, elected in April, tries to come to terms with the bitter racial legacies left by white-minority rule.

Peru vote seen as Fujimori vs Perez de Cuellar match

By Mary Powers
Reuters

LIMA — Peru's 1995 presidential race is taking shape as a contest between President Alberto Fujimori, who is expected to stand for re-election, and former United Nations chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, pollsters say.

Although neither has officially declared his candidacy, few Peruvians doubt Mr. Fujimori plans to seek a second term and the former U.N. secretary general appears close to a decision to run, analysts and politicians who met with him said.

Perez de Cuellar is the only candidate who can give Fujimori a run for his money," said Manuel Torrado, political consultant and head of the Datum Polling Firm.

The elections are set for next April, with a second round in June if no candidate gains 50 per cent of the vote.

Daniel Estrada, mayor of the southeastern city of Cuzco, said Mr. Perez de Cuellar told him during a recent visit to Peru on July 20 and remain in the country "as long as he needs to make a decision."

A Datum poll of 999 people nationwide in mid-May indicated a Fujimori-Perez de Cuellar race would be a close one — 43.8 per cent would vote for the incumbent and 42.8 per cent would cast ballots for the former U.N. chief.

A poll by Apoyo Sa conducted in Lima, where support for Mr. Fujimori is seen as stronger, showed 45 per cent of those interviewed would vote for the president and 44 per cent would choose Perez de Cuellar.

There is about a third who are solidly in favour of Fujimori, a third who solidly oppose him and another (third) who are undecided," said Apoyo Director Alfredo Torres.

Datum's Torrado said Perez de Cuellar's declared candidacy had created "a space for the opposition which did not previously exist."

Nevertheless, Mr. Fujimori continues to ride a wave of popular approval four years into his five-year term.

The Datum poll showed 59.2 per cent approved Mr. Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants who rose from obscurity to beat novelist Mario Vargas Llosa in the 1990 election. The Apoyo survey in Lima gave the president a 61 per cent approval rating.

"There is no doubt Fujimori is the best president Peru has had in a long time so it would be very dangerous for an opposition candidate to go on the attack," Mr. Torrado said.

Fujimori's successes in fighting a 14-year-old Maoist Shining Path guerrilla insurgency, bringing down inflation and stabilising the economy are precursors as his strongest achievements, the analysts said.

But most Peruvians have yet to see the successes in the economic sphere transformed into a real improvement in the quality of their lives, they added.

According to the Datum poll, 67.1 per cent of those surveyed identified unemployment and the lack of jobs as the number one problem facing the country followed by the economic crisis.

"This time, Peruvians are going to vote with their pocketbooks," said Apoyo's Torres.

Mr. Estrada said the candidate who most successfully proposes "achievable ideas" on two issues — the creation of jobs and decentralisation — will carry the day in next year's vote.

In a referendum vote on a new constitution last November, the poor results from several interior regions reflected Mr. Fujimori's vulnerability in the provinces. The constitution, which makes his reelection possible, barely gained approval.

Since that tally, Mr. Fujimori has constantly been travelling to Peru's interior in what one opposition political commentator described as "governing from a helicopter."

Mr. Fujimori could suffer from overexposure and many Peruvians now perceive the president, who capitalised in 1990 on voters' rejection of traditional politics, as a politician, while Perez de Cuellar would not have that image, Mr. Torrado said.

But Perez de Cuellar faces his own problems. Although he is considered by many Peruvians, especially in rural areas, as having been "president of the world," he is also perceived as divorced from the lives of average Peruvians.

Perez de Cuellar must also walk a fine line of seeking support from traditional political parties while not appearing too close to them, since those groups are still largely discredited in the eyes of most Peruvians, the pollsters said.

Save water ... every drop counts

Features

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Will Sonia Gandhi enter politics?

By M.R. Narayan Swamy
Agence France Presse

NEW DELHI — Sonia Gandhi's surprise appearance at a meeting of India's ruling party has sparked intense speculation that the Italian-born widow of former premier Rajiv Gandhi may be preparing to enter politics.

In her first political foray since her husband's assassination in May 1991, the 47-year-old Sonia Gandhi overshadowed Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao at the opening of the Congress (I) party convention here Friday.

The standing ovation she received from the 1,000 delegates was convincing evidence that the allure of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty remains irresistible to the 109-year-old Congress, India's oldest political party.

Congress delegates jostled one another as they tried to get close to the sari-clad Sonia Gandhi, and the sports stadium where the convention was taking place echoed with full-throated slogans hailing her and her late husband.

Amidst the commotion, Mr. Rao's arrival went virtually unnoticed until he had climbed the dais. Cries of "Long live Sonia Gandhi" went on even after he had begun speaking.

"It proved that the aura of the Nehru-Gandhi family remains intact," The Pioneer newspaper commented. "As far as the party workers are concerned, no one can match that appeal."

"She came, she conquered," blared another newspaper.

The Asian Age asked the question on everybody's lips: "Why did she come?"

Opinion in the Congress

is divided as to why Sonia Gandhi cast aside her known distaste for the murky world of politics to attend the convention, when she had declined to attend similar meetings in 1992 and 1993.

Murli Deora, a party strongman from Bombay, said: "It is the desire of all congressmen that she should enter politics."

But Mani Shankar Aiyer, an MP close to the Gandhi, said he believed she does not intend to step into the political arena.

The media-shy Sonia Gandhi, who has kept herself busy overseeing the work of a foundation named after Rajiv Gandhi, was not available for comment.

The Nehru-Gandhi dynasty has ruled India for 40 of the past 47 years, beginning with Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first premier, his daughter, Indira Gandhi, and grandson, Rajiv.

Rajiv Gandhi served until 1989 and was on the campaign trail preparing a return to power when he was cut down by a suicide bomber in May 1991.

A rudderless Congress urged Sonia Gandhi to take over the party leadership after her husband's death. She refused, enabling Mr. Rao to come out of virtual retirement and become India's ninth prime minister.

The current speculation centres around whether her unexpected appearance at the party convention means she has changed her mind about politics.

"Mark by words, the tussle for power (between Rao and Sonia Gandhi) will begin now," The Pioneer quoted an unnamed Congress leader as saying Saturday, a fear shared by a section of the party.

The Italian-born Sonia



THE CHARM OF A DYNASTY: Sonia Gandhi (File photo)

Maino married into the Nehru-Gandhi family in 1968. She has never fought an election or held an official post.

She preferred the role of a quiet housewife and mother to son Rahul and daughter Priyanka even after her husband became prime minister.

But Sonia Gandhi, who speaks fluent Hindi and always wears a Sari in public, has long been seen as a potential rival to Mr. Rao because of her charisma and family name.

"If she decides to throw down the challenge, she can render Rao very uncomfortable," one Congress member said.

Newspapers have speculated in the past that Sonia Gandhi might want her daughter, Priyanka, 22, to enter parliament from the Amethi constituency, which her husband last won posthumously in 1991.

Pamphlets saying "Only Sonia and Priyanka can save the country" were distributed by Gandhi loyalists at the convention.

A war that nobody is winning

By Jeffrey Ulbrich
The Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda — The rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) has rolled up more than half the country in two months of savage fighting against government forces, but that doesn't really answer the question: Who is winning the war?

The initial advances brought the rebels to the gates of Kigali, the capital, and Gitarama, the government's current seat 50 kilometres to the west.

Both cities are now under heavy rebel attack. But the lightning advances of past weeks have slowed almost to a standstill.

"How do you measure who is winning the war?" a senior independent military source asked rhetorically. "In this case, the RPF is winning the terrain, but (government forces) are killing more people."

Hundreds of thousands of Rwandans have died since the civil war erupted anew — nobody really knows how many. Most of the victims have been civilians. And most of those civilians have been from the minority Tutsi tribe, murdered by government-trained militias of the majority Hutu ethnic group.

"The (government forces) are now in a desperate mood," the senior officer said, speaking on condition that he not be identified.

Even if the Tutsi-led rebel forces win the war on the ground, they may have little left to rule because most of the Tutsis in the country will be dead. At the same time, the rebels will be too spread out and too thin on the ground militarily to control their gains effectively, the source said.

Recent withdrawals of government forces have left

gruesome results.

A frequent tactic, military sources say, is to exterminate Tutsis and other opponents systematically in an area, then conduct an orderly withdrawal. When the rebel forces come in, they find a human wasteland.

"It looks like when intense fighting is going on, the militia is also in there killing (civilians)," the military source noted. "So the withdrawal is not necessarily a defeat. It is always tactical and planned."

Rebels and representatives of the Rwandan army have conducted five rounds of ceasefire talks in Kigali, the capital, over the past 10 days with little result. One of the conditions set by the Patriotic Front was that the massacres must stop before there can be a ceasefire.

But before the militias can stop, the militias must be brought under control, and it is far from clear that anyone will be able to do that.

The militiamen, armed with guns, knives, machetes and spears, enter villages and neighbourhoods methodically murdering Tutsis and others they don't like. They throw up roadblocks everywhere and menace all who pass.

Some observers believe the more the Patriotic Front rebels tighten the noose around the army in the southwestern corner of the country, the more frenzied the murder and massacres will become.

The rebels are steadily pounding army troops who hold the centre of Kigali and others holding out in the key city of Gitarama.

In Gitarama, the fighting has been so intense that President Theodore Sindikubwabo has left, taking a few of his ministers with him to the western town of Gisenyi near Lake Kivu, across from Zaire.

Serbs dig trenches, await new offensive

By Julijana Mojsilovic
The Associated Press

BRCKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Warm weather, a lull in fighting and a cover of trees are enabling Serbs to dig new trenches protecting their lifeline from an expected attack that could be the most important engagement of the Bosnian war.

The Bosnian army, less than 1.6 kilometres away, can slice Serb lands in two by cutting across this northern corridor. But the Serbs who hold it are trying to ensure it would be the most difficult five kilometres of the war.

Any attacker likely would face a World War I-style slog over Serb trenches against withering artillery, tank and machine-gun fire.

From their observation post just outside Brcko, a town on the Croatian border about 100 kilometres north of Sarajevo, Bosnian Serb soldiers watch government forces.

"It's been peaceful here in the last two or three days, just a few bullets from time to time," said a local Serb commander who identified himself only as Cadjo.

But few doubt an attack is coming or that its outcome is crucial.

Brcko is within the 5.5-kilometre-wide corridor that links Serb holdings in Bosnia and Croatia with Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. Only 9 per cent of its people were Serbs before fighting started two years ago. The rest were Muslims and Croats.

As many as 2,000 people are believed to have been killed when Serbs took control of the town in heavy fighting in summer 1992, and thousands more fled.

Serb nationalists want to unite all Serb-held lands in Croatia, Bosnia and Yugoslavia. They need the corridor not only to connect that land, but also to move equipment and soldiers. Without it, the lands to the west would be surrounded and could be slowly squeezed by the Muslim-led government and their Croat allies.

In recent weeks, there has been fighting around



FIGHTING ON: No end seems in sight for the Bosnian war despite the thousands of deaths and years of battling (AFP photo)

Brcko and along the front lines in northern Bosnia as government forces chip away at Serb-held lands.

Last week, more than 300 explosions were reported by U.N. observers in the area of government-held Srebrenica, about 35 km southwest of Brcko. Farther south, exchanges of artillery fire were reported around Ribnica.

Bosnian radio later reported shelling and Serb infantry attacks on government lines in the vicinity.

While negotiations aimed at a temporary ceasefire languished in Geneva, the Bosnian Serb said they have refrained from a stiff counterattack.

They say they want a ceasefire first, and then talks on a division of Bosnia. The Bosnian government, which has made modest gains of its own lately, has been hesitant to sign a ceasefire which could cement Serb gains.

"If Muslims, helped by Bosnian Croat troops, continue their offensive, the battle that would inevitably follow would be the bloodiest battle of the whole war," said Lt. Col. Milovan Milutinovic, Bosnian Serb army spokesman.

Bosnian Serb military leaders are convinced they can repel any offensive.

Serb sources say at least 150 guns — mortars, multiple-barrel rocket launchers, cannons, howitzers, anti-aircraft guns — and up to 100 tanks are ready.

Serb infantry would be outnumbered but would fight from the trenches.

Two men in civilian clothes protected by tall trees bent over the ground where they were digging near Brcko. Snipers could not see them, but in case they did, Serb fighters on guard in an unfinished house at the front line were ready to fire back.

"They see us," Cadjo said of the Muslims, "and if these U.N. guys were not here they would have sniped." Two U.N. monitors, from Canada and Jordan, carefully watched the front line from slits in the walls.

Mr. Milutinovic, the Bosnian Serb spokesman, warned that Bosnian Serbs would not tolerate government attacks much longer.

Another Serb officer, Lt. Col. Miko Skoric, said Serbs "won't just take back small pieces of land that Muslims temporarily conquered. Our counteroffensive will be serious."

About 200,000 people have been reported dead or missing in more than two years of war launched by the Bosnian Serbs, who rebelled against secession from Yugoslavia by Muslims and Croats. Serbs have never made public their casualties, but an unofficial Bosnian Serb military estimate put it at up to 50,000.

States jostle for site, head of new trade body

GENEVA (AP) — Germany is making a formal bid to become the site of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are also involved in the hargaining alongside the WTO.

Officials said the jostling was part of a complicated process of choosing a new body to replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which has to reach a decision within the next few weeks.

Leadership of the European Union (EU) and the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are also involved in the hargaining alongside the WTO.

Countries ranging from Brazil and New Zealand to Canada, Belgium and Italy as well as Britain, the Netherlands and Mexico are caught up in the diplomatic "swap shop" on who gets what.

Trade sources said the German application for the WTO seat was expected by Wednesday's deadline at the Geneva headquarters of GATT, the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade which is to be absorbed by the WTO next year.

According to several senior GATT envoys, the bid to shift the WTO to Bonn, where dozens of government buildings will be left empty when the German capital be-

gins its move to Berlin in 1996, has almost no chance of success.

Although Economics Minister Guenther Rexrodt insists the bid is a serious one, German officials acknowledge they have little hope of success.

"Fairness dictates that our offer for the WTO should be considered, but ultimately no one really believes that they will move from Geneva," said one.

However, the emergence of Bonn as a challenger to Geneva's vaunted "international city" status has brought in the open mounting discontent among diplomats and other foreign residents over restrictions imposed by the Swiss authorities.

This has been coupled with a growing feeling that the Swiss people, if not the government, have little commitment to an international role for their country — reaffirmed in a weekend referendum "no" to providing

troops for the United Nations.

"I think there is no doubt that in the end we will decide to stay here," said one top envoy in Geneva, seat of GATT since its creation in 1948, of several U.N. agencies and of the U.N.'s European headquarters — although the Swiss people have twice voted not to join the world body.

"But this will be largely because of the costs involved in moving, particularly for the poorer countries who will have to maintain a strong presence at the WTO," he added.

Switzerland's own offer on conditions for the WTO, which will have wider powers than the GATT and enjoy equal standing with the Washington-based World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, was submitted late last month.

Although it has remained confidential, it is widely believed to meet many of the

terms laid down by GATT chief Peter Sutherland for building rental, a new conference centre and better treatment for its staff and their families.

A decision is expected by the end of July, although it may not be until late in the year that the 120-plus countries in the GATT will decide who takes over from Mr. Sutherland, a tough former Irish attorney-general.

In recent days, Mexico's President Carlos Salinas has let it be known he would be interested in the WTO post — joining Brazil's Finance Minister Rubens Ricuperero and EU-backed former Italian Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero in the race.

New Zealand, an active player in international trade politics and a possible compromise between developing countries and the EU, has two potential candidates — present Trade Minister Philip Burdon and his predecessor and one-time Prime Minister Michael Moore.

Mitsubishi Heavy and Hitachi Zosen suffer profit declines

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. and Hitachi Zosen Corp. have announced declines in consolidated earnings for the year to March but said parent company profits would improve this year.

Mitsubishi Heavy, the country's largest shipbuilder, reported a 1.4 per cent decline in earnings to 15.3 billion yen (1.13 billion dollars) from 15.7 billion yen (1.15 billion dollars) in the previous year.

Hitachi Zosen, the heavy engineering affiliate of Sanwa Bank Ltd., said its consolidated pre-tax profit fell 0.8 per cent to 24.4 billion yen despite a 17.1 per cent increase in group sales to 525 billion yen.

Group forecasts for the current year were available but parent company earnings, which grew 25 per cent to 32 billion yen in the latest year, were forecast to rise to 33 billion yen. Parent sales, which were up 12.4 per cent at 403 billion yen, were projected to climb to 420 billion yen.

"Although some people are saying the economy is recovering, forecasts that the prolonged sluggishness will continue for some time due to structural problems in the Japanese economy," Hitachi Zosen said in a statement.

For the year just ended, Mitsubishi Heavy said revenue from its shipbuilding and steel structure operations

edged down 0.1 per cent to 448 billion yen while power systems revenue was flat at 683 billion yen.

Machinery sales dived 6.2 per cent to 517 billion yen and revenue from aircraft and special vehicles such as tanks fell 0.2 per cent to 456 billion yen. Sales of general machinery and components along with air conditioning and refrigeration systems dropped 3.2 per cent to 331 billion yen.

Hitachi's revenue from shipbuilding and the construction of steel structures fell 0.4 per cent to 167 billion yen. But sales of machinery and prime movers grew 5.7 per cent to 56 billion yen and revenue from industrial plant and environmental equipment jumped 22.7 per cent to 155 billion yen.

Other sales, including revenue from biochemicals, new materials and electronic control equipment, jumped 19 per cent to 25 billion yen.

Three years before the British colony reverts to China, housing prices are impossible high, and look set to stay that way despite Governor Chris Patten's pledge to cool the sizzling property market.

In the middle-class suburb of Tai Kow Shing, 20 minutes by subway from the Central financial district, the 825-square-foot apartment with "pool view" was selling last week for five million dollars (\$646,830).

Nearer to Central, a 500-square-foot (45-square-metre) apartment with two bedrooms not much bigger than the beds inside is considered a bargain at three million dollars (\$388,100).

These prices are about 500 per cent more than what they were three years ago, when the latest in Hong Kong's property booms took off in the wake of the Gulf war, property consultants say.

While fingers point instantly at hard-to-identify "speculators," the main culprit has been the government's policy of keeping the Hong Kong

dollar pegged to its U.S. counterpart, at a time when Washington is keeping interest rates low.

So while Hong Kong inflation remains at a relatively high eight per cent or so, interest rates are stuck much lower — for a bank account, a nearly 2.5 per cent.

"If I put money in the bank I'd lose," said Alex Wong, group general manager of L and D Associates, the territory's highest property agents.

"But if I put my money in property and let it out, I can get four to five per cent rental return and 30 to 40 per cent in capital gains," he pointed out.

Mr. Wong says there are two kinds of property investors.

The first are people who first bought property 10 or 12 years ago, and who have since seen the value of their houses increase so much that they can afford to buy a bigger, better flat.

The second are those who have given up steady white-collar jobs for more lucrative

sales jobs that pay hefty commissions — for instance, property agents.

For half of Hong Kong's six million people, the housing crisis does not exist. They live in government-subsidised public housing estates, often paying rents in the area of 1,000 dollars (\$130) a month.

Older units are so cramped that they are popularly known as "pigeon holes," but the fast-growing number of newer ones if private would easily rent for 10 times the government price.

Those with the big problem are Hong Kong's middle class, better known locally as "the sandwich class." They

earn too much to qualify for public housing, but too little for a down payment or mortgage.

They can rent, but that too is not easy. For that same 825 square foot apartment, the monthly rent is likely to be 20,000 dollars (\$2,590) — about the same as a junior manager's income in a trading company.

Leaving Hong Kong altogether is another option. While fears about life after 1997 remain the prime reason Hong Kongers are still emigrating at a rate of 1,000 a week, the high cost of living has become a powerful new incentive.

Mr. Yeltsin's chief economic adviser, Alexander Lifshits, warned last month that failure to solve the inter-enterprise debt problem would lead to the "Ukrainisation of the Russian economy" — a reference to the hyperinflation that has racked the economy of neighbouring Ukraine.

Jericho links two issues

Jerusalem (AP) — The defence ministry says that 1,000 Palestinians were killed as collaborators by fellow Palestinians during the intifada which began in December 1987. Fewer than 20 per cent actually collaborated, the ministry says.

In Jericho, 200 residents and released prisoners marched through town Tuesday, carrying banners demanding the release of the "hundreds of thousands" in Israeli jails.

Some 100 men from the West Bank arrived by Israel for killing or attacking Jewish settlers and collaborators have found shelter in Jericho, one of the men said Tuesday.

Under the autonomy agreement, Israeli forces are not authorised to hunt down Palestinians in the self-rule areas.

But the actual sheltering of wanted men by the Palestinian authorities might prove embarrassing to the new autonomy officials who have to cooperate with Israel and its security forces.

Mr. Rabin warned Tuesday: "A certain number of wanted Palestinians have arrived in Jericho. We are going to take care of them and you will see the results."

Right-wing Likud party's Benny Begin urged the government to reveal the crimes of those wanted men.

"Jericho has become a refuge for Palestinian fugitives," he charged.

Ziyad Wawi said he and Burhan Subeih came into Jericho three days ago, following a steady stream of 17 other wanted men into the area who had come in pairs over the last month.

"We came to Jericho because with the Palestinian authority here, it is now safe," Mr. Wawi said, adding the men had got the green light from the PLO leadership in Tunis before coming out here.

"We came partly to push to have our question raised again with the Israelis," Mr. Wawi, 24, told AFP, speaking on behalf of the other

wanted men.

"We want Israel to grant us amnesty now that there is peace."

He said they were all members of the Black Panthers, the armed wing of Fateh in the West Bank, and had halted their activities with the Sept. 13 signing of the declaration of principles by Israel and the PLO in Washington.

But, he said he and Mr. Subeih were among 19 still wanted by Israel after another 32 — charged with less serious crimes — were granted amnesty.

"We don't want to stay here, we don't want Jericho to become a haven for prisoners and wanted men."

The PLO has sacked officials who signed a compromise deal confining Palestinian prisoners freed by Israel to the self-rule enclave of Jericho, a Palestinian official said on Tuesday.

He said the officials, members of the liaison committee with Israel which monitors security in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, were not authorised to sign.

Oman Aviation profits rise slightly

DUBAI (R) — Oman Aviation Company, which runs Oman's domestic and international air services, made 1993 operating profits of 4.1 million Omani riyals (\$10.6 million), up one per cent on 1992, the Omani News Agency has said.

The agency did not give a figure for 1992 profits and company officials were not immediately available for comment.

Oman Aviation's income in 1993 was up 12 per cent to 24.1 million riyals (\$62.6 million), the agency quoted its annual report as saying, also without giving a 1992 income figure.

But expenditures also rose because of an increase in fuel, operations and aircraft leasing costs.

Oman Aviation, launched as a domestic service in 1981, entered the world market last year under the name Oman Air with a new Boeing 737-700. It has said it plans to bring another aircraft into service this month.

The Oman News Agency said the company would pay a 1.4 million riyal (\$3.6 million) dividend, or 20 per cent of paid-up capital, to shareholders.

Oman Aviation is 35 per cent owned by the Omani government and the rest is held by Omani investors.

Oman jointly owns Bahrain-based regional carrier Gulf Air along with the governments of Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Qatar. Qatar has also set up a national carrier, Qatar Airways.

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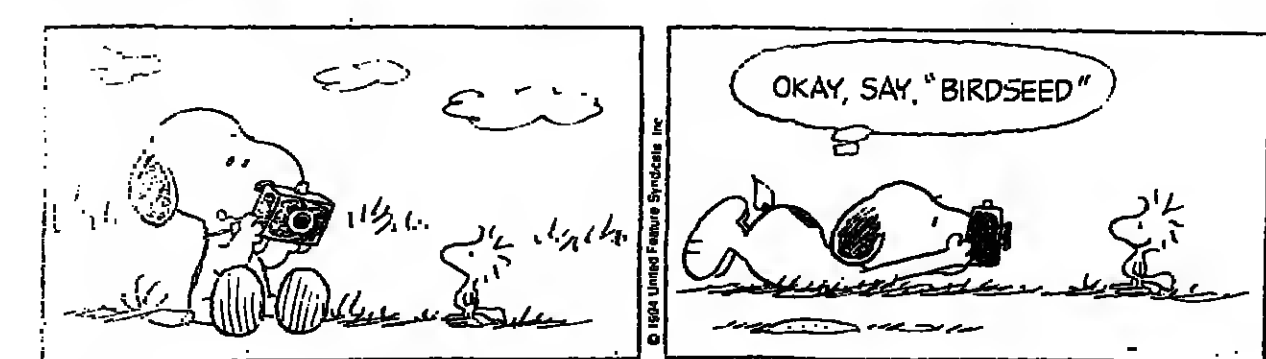
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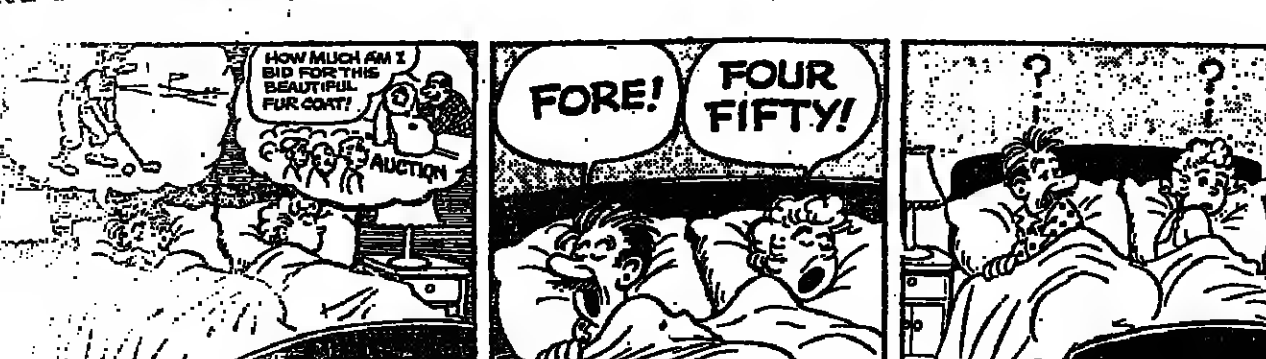
Cartoons



Andy Capp



Cartoon



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"I brought home a kiss, but there's some assembly required. We have to put the lips together."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FYMIL

OSSE

GAMENT

UPBRAL

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: JULEP CAPON RENOEER CHERUB

Answer: What the commuters called the daily traffic jam — CREEP AND BEEP

THE Daily Crossword

by Gayle Dean

ACROSS

1 Trenchless

6 Rhyme scheme

10 And others:

14 Built-in bed

16 Reamed

17 One profit

18 Author Jong

19 Be

20 Dunes

21 Cut off

22 "Salvage to Heaven" readers

24 "Adam"

25 Trucks

26 Neoclassical

27 Woodwinds

31 Level

32 Austrian composer

34 Destroy

37 Permeates

38 "Glowers"

40 Tally second

41 Surprisingly

42 Explosive

43 Statisticians

44 And so forth:

45 Blank order

46 Onethree's land

48 Shown flower

50 Turned over, probably

53 Decorous

54 German novelist

57 Holiday time

60 "Dracula"

61 Author Long

62 Divided into regions

64 Drift

65 Back

66 Forward

67 Angered

68 Rightly

69 Wren here

70 Musical group

71 River to Baltic

74 Energy

75 River to Rhine

76 Embury

78 One one's feet

81 Mins car

84 Plored

85 Asken garment

87 Sped

88 Cooked path

89 Religious figure

91 Foxes

92 Trap

93 Con

94 Aesthetic

95 Merino fleece

96 Son of Satan

98 Opening

99 "The"

100 (Laughing)

101 Battering about

Turkish stocks face bumpy ride — analysts

ISTANBUL (R) — Shares face a bumpy ride on the Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE) this year but long-term prospects are good, brokers and analysts said.

After a year of spectacular rallies, the ISE's composite index has plunged 43 per cent since January, standing at 16,536.39 Tuesday.

Brokers see further falls in share prices, as listed companies are expected to suffer from a five-month-old crisis.

"Over the next months, we may see things getting worse before they get any better," Nicholas Bratt, managing director of Scudder, Stevens Clark, told a Euromoney conference in Istanbul.

"In the long term fundamental quality of certain Turkish companies are good, but we can't say much about the short-term," he said.

Automotive plants and durable goods makers have slashed thousands of jobs and almost halved production.

Recession is likely to spread into other sectors in coming months and many firms are expected to default on bank loans due in June.

Extreme volatility in interest rates and the Turkish lira since January have made it difficult for investors to predict the short-term outlook of the share market.

The economic crisis, the worst in the republic's 70-year history, has seen the lira see-sawing between 15,000 and 40,000 per dollar and interest rates soaring above 500 per cent.

Many investors shifted their savings to the treasury's high-yielding three-month notes, known as "super T-Bills," which carry an annual compounded return of 406 per cent. The treasury is expected to continue borrowing at high rates this year.

Market capitalisation has dropped to \$10.9 billion in April from \$37.5 billion in 1993, compared with \$9.9 billion in 1992. The traded value halved to \$12 billion in five months.

But for Hakan Ferhatoglu, chairman of Meksa Securities, Turkey will eventually regain its role as the darling of emerging market investors.

"Bot Turkey must first introduce inflation accounting, amend capital markets law and promote institutional investments," he told the Euromoney conference in Istanbul.

Mr. Ferhatoglu cited the necessity to remove the 10 per cent daily price margins, improve protection for investors and introduce closed-end institutional funds and real estate trusts.

Special tax incentives boosted equity funds last year but they were also blamed for accelerating the market's plunge as the funds swiftly pulled out of stocks.

Mina Toksoz, from the Economics Intelligence Unit, said risks for foreign investors were associated with the Islamic gains in the local elections, economic restructuring related to a planned customs union with the EU and the implementation of bold austerity measures which Turkey announced on April 5.

The good news is that prices have become very cheap and privatisation seems to be going through. Many state-sector shares earmarked for a sell-off are in for a sharp rise.

"The road is hard but long, term rewards are plenty," said Mehmet Sami, assistant general manager at ATA Securities.

The stock exchange is also trying its best to attract more foreign capital. Settlement will be extended to two days from one by end-June and trading hours will double to four hours.

The exchange will move to new premises and plans to complete the installation of computer trading by the end of next year, Arif Seren, vice chairman of the exchange, said.

"Listed companies are potentially very profitable, efficient and productive, but they now face a recession and 30-40 per cent of their capacity lies idle," Mr. Seren said.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York CLOS	Tokyo CLOS
Sterling Pound	1.5210	1.5245
Deutsche Mark	1.6457	1.6443
Swiss Franc	1.3867	1.3850
French Franc	5.0120	5.0055
Japanese Yen	102.40	102.54
European Currency Unit	1.1723	1.1730

1 Unit Per SDR, European (SME) = 800 a.m. 1.1.1.1

European Currency Unit Rates Date: 14/6/1994

Currency	1 UNIT	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	4.0000	4.3100	4.6500	5.1900
Sterling Pound	4.7500	4.6500	5.1500	5.7500
Deutsche Mark	4.7500	4.7500	4.7500	4.9400
Swiss Franc	3.9400	4.0600	4.1300	4.2500
French Franc	3.2500	3.3100	3.3600	3.4400
Japanese Yen	1.8800	1.8600	2.0000	2.2500
European Currency Unit	5.7500	5.7500	5.7500	5.9000

1 Unit Per SDR, European (SME) = 800 a.m. 1.1.1.1

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 14/6/1994

Currency	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6980
Sterling Pound	1.0555	1.0635
Deutsche Mark	0.4227	0.4245
Swiss Franc	0.5013	0.5043
French Franc	0.1239	0.1245
Japanese Yen	0.6748	0.6767
Dutch Guilder	0.5773	0.5792
Swedish Krona	0.0436	0.0438
Italian Lira	0.0436	0.0438
Belgian Franc	0.0436	0.0438

Other Currencies Date: 14/6/1994

Currency	Buy	Sell
Bahraini Dinar	1.8320	1.8520
Lebanese Lira	0.040945	0.042715
Saudi Riyal	0.1852	0.1870
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3250	2.3800
Omani Riyal	0.1857	0.1905
Egyptian Pound	0.2070	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7850	1.8150
UAE Dirham	0.1857	0.1905
Greek Drachma	0.2075	0.2175
Cypriot Pound	1.3375	1.4350

UAE court convicts BCCI executives

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) court Tuesday convicted 12 former BCCI executives of fraud and handed out jail sentences of up to 14 years for the scandal which ruined thousands of investors.

The court also ordered the defendants to pay more than \$8 billion in damages to UAE President Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan and other owners of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

Abu Dhabi, the main oil producer in the UAE, owned 77 per cent of BCCI before it was shut worldwide in July 1991 for allegations of massive fraud and liquidated a year later.

BCCI had been one of the biggest financial institutions in the world, with assets of more than \$20 billion and operations covering nearly 70 countries, and it left behind nearly 250,000 creditors.

Announcing the verdict, presiding Judge Shehah

Abdul Rahman sentenced the two top BCCI men to between eight and 14 years in prison and the remaining former executives to between three and six years. One was acquitted.

Former chief executive Swaleh Naqvi, a 58-year-old British of Pakistani origin, was sentenced to 14 years on nine charges while BCCI founder Agha Hassan Abedi, a Pakistani, was sentenced to eight years in absentia.

Mr. Naqvi had appeared in court since the trial began in October until he was extradited to the United States last month to stand trial in connection with the BCCI scandal. Defence lawyers ruled out his return to the UAE if he were convicted in the United States.

"If he were found guilty in the United States, then he would be jailed there. If not, he could be extradited back to the UAE," one lawyer said.

Lawyers also said they expected the UAE to give up

attempts to bring Mr. Abedi to Abu Dhabi to serve his jail term on the grounds he is half paralysed and unable to speak after he suffered from a stroke three years ago.

Mr. Abedi, 70, has been living in his home town of Lahore since he fell ill.

Another BCCI defendant tried in absentia was treasurer Ziauddin Ali Akbar, who was given six years in jail by a British court last September on charges related to the collapse of BCCI. Mr. Akbar, a Pakistani with British citizenship, was sentenced by the UAE court for three years.

In a statement, the majority shareholders said they were pleased with the sentences but added the case was not over.

"It is a landmark in the BCCI affair that these key individuals have been brought to justice," the statement said. "However, we do not regard this as the conclusion of the BCCI affair. The process of bringing wrongdoers to justice continues as we assist authorities around the world in their investigations just as we are maintaining our work with the worldwide liquidators to help those who have suffered from BCCI's closure."

All the defendants, mainly Pakistanis with British citizenship, had denied charges of forgery, breach of trust, dissipation of funds, irregular allocation of di-

vidends and other offences in one of the biggest financial scandals in modern history.

The other sentenced were Hassan Kazmi, a Pakistani — six years; Abdul Hafiz Ahmad, British — six years; Amrullah Siddiqi, British — three years; Fakhr Hussain, Pakistani — three years; Mohammad Azmatullah, British — three years; Bashir Taher, Pakistani — three years; Zafar Iqbal Chowdhary, Pakistani — six years; and Nassim Sheikh, British — three years.

The 13th defendant, Iqbal Ahmad Rizvi, who has been free on bail for health reasons, was acquitted on all charges.

"I am very happy with the verdict. I deserve it because I did not do anything wrong," Mr. Rizvi said.

Court sources said those who had been sentenced for three years would be released soon as they have served the specified jail term. Those who got more than three years have the right to appeal, the sources added.

On civil charges, the court found the defendants except Mr. Rizvi guilty and ordered them to pay damages to the Abu Dhabi shareholders.

The damages include \$6.56 billion for the personal department of Sheikh Zayed, 77, in addition to \$1.22 billion to the Abu Dhabi Finance Department and \$1.034 billion to the Abu

Dhabi Investment Authority. The UAE has filed a civil suit demanding damages of around \$10.2 billion for loss it says was inflicted by the defendants over the past 10 years.

"The defendants, except the eighth (the acquitted) are bound to pay damages to the civil claimants," the judge announced without making clear if they faced more jail terms in case they failed to pay.

At the opening of the trial in October, prosecutor Adli Hassan, had described the defendants as criminals who have brought misery to millions of people.

"Today, we look into a case that has affected not only the UAE but the whole world," he told the court. "Millions of families lost their wealth, and companies stopped operating. Millions of people are victims of what these criminals have done."

Iran allows first private banks since 1979

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has decided to allow the setting up of privately owned banks from next week for the first time since the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Iran's central bank governor, Mohammad Hussein Adeli, said in remarks quoted by Tehran radio that the bank would supervise in private banks "and therefore guarantee their activities."

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted Mr. Adeli as saying regulations governing the activities of the private banks had been approved by the government and a money and credit council and declared to be within constitutional and religious laws.

"The banks would be able to take deposits and participate in production and economic activities nationwide," he said.

Iran nationalised private banks at the start of the revolution.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKETS

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

15/6/1994

CONSOLIDATED MARKET PRICE LIST FOR TODAY

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1994

COMPANY'S NAME

	TRADED VOLUME	NEWLY LISTED	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
AMMAN BANK	7,540	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN COMMERCIAL BANK	13,250	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	17,335	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN TRADING BANK	18,600	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	11,250	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN SECURITIES	18,275	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN REAL ESTATE	50,616	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN INSURANCE	12,250	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN TRAVEL	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN HOTELS	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN RESTAURANTS	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN ENTERTAINMENT	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN SPORTS	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN CULTURE	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN ARTS	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN MUSIC	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN THEATRE	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN CINEMA	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN RADIO	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN TELEVISION	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN PRESS	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN PUBLISHING	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN BOOKS	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN TOYS	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN GAMES	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN CLOTHING	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN SHOES	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN JEWELLERY	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN WATCHES	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN OPTICS	14,400	100,000	1.100	1.100
AMMAN PERFORMANCES	16,330	100,000	1.100	1.100
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Russia tells Bosnian Serbs to give up land, warns U.S.

SARAJEVO (R) — Russia's foreign minister, backing an international initiative to end the war in Bosnia, warned Bosnian Serbs Tuesday to give up conquered land or risk losing support from Moscow.

Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman held talks in Sarajevo with Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic over a possible confederation of their states.

"If you choose peace, you can count on the most decisive support from Russia," Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Moscow.

"But I want to warn you. There is also another choice, which we think leads to war. You cannot control 70 per cent of territory by force as you do now," Mr. Kozyrev said.

Mr. Kozyrev's warning comes as Western and Russian diplomats are putting pressure on the Serbs and the Muslim-led Bosnian government to accept their proposal to divide the country in a compromise partition.

The major powers plan calls for giving the Serbs 49 per cent of Bosnia and the rest to Muslims and Croats.

But neither side has endorsed the 51-49 split and Serb leaders, whose forces control 70 per cent of the country, say the proposed

peace map ignores Serb interests.

Mr. Tudjman arrived in Sarajevo Tuesday for his first official visit to the war-torn capital, and held talks with Mr. Izetbegovic over the newly formed Bosnian Federation and its possible confederation with Croatia.

Mr. Tudjman's one-day visit underlined the improvement in Muslim-Croat relations since the United States helped broker a common federal state between the former foes, ending a 10-month war for territory in central Bosnia.

Although fighting has mostly subsided between Serbs and Muslim-led army forces due to a temporary one-month ceasefire, the relative calm was marred by inter-Muslim clashes in the northwestern enclave of Bihać.

The mostly Muslim Bosnian government army in the past few days has advanced against rebel forces loyal to breakaway Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, a United Nations spokesman said.

"Despite bad weather the fifth corps retained its pressure on Abdic forces," U.N. commander Eric Chaperon said Tuesday.

U.N. military sources said they were fearful nearby Serbs would intervene in the inter-Muslim fighting.

Mr. Abdic split with the

Bosnian government in Sarajevo last summer over his willingness to negotiate with the Serbs.

Muslim-led army advances were reported late Monday after the U.N. commander in Bosnia said he was encouraged by the initial success of the three-day old truce, despite reports of sporadic clashes between Muslims and Serbs.

"I have been encouraged generally by the decreasing levels of fighting," said Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose in Sarajevo.

Fighting inside the Bihać pocket began Saturday, the day after the U.N.-brokered truce, which Mr. Abdic did not sign, came into effect.

Bosnian army Fifth Corps soldiers captured 30 kilometres of ground and two companies of Mr. Abdic's forces Monday, the sources said, with troops loyal to Sarajevo advancing up a main road to the town of Peticard.

Two Serb tanks from the Krajina region were reported to be shelling Bosnian army territory on Mr. Abdic's behalf, the U.N. said, adding to fears of wider Serb involvement in the clashes.

The Bihać pocket is surrounded by Serb forces but there has been no fighting along the external confrontation line since the Geneva truce became effective.

U.S./European and Russian diplomats hope the temporary truce will provide momentum for negotiations on a final peace settlement. Diplomats from the international "contact group" are scheduled to meet later this week to prepare a final proposal to present to the warring factions.

Russia warned the United States on Tuesday that a unilateral withdrawal from a U.N. arms embargo in Bosnia could revive international confrontation of even lead to another world war.

Mr. Kozyrev used the opportunity of a meeting with Mr. Karadzic to blast U.S. legislators for recent decisions aimed at opening the way for arms supplies to Muslim forces in the former Yugoslav republic.

"If American legislators try such steps in favour of the (Muslims) it would create a new political situation...It is definitely a way to a new world war," Mr. Kozyrev said in the presence of reporters as he welcomed Mr. Karadzic to Moscow.

The U.S. House of Representatives, following the example of the Senate, voted last week to order President Bill Clinton to lift the embargo, declared by the United Nations on all former Yugoslav republics in September 1991.

The West has long worried



Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei Kozyrev pose for the photographers in Moscow (AFP photo)

that the strong support, including arms supplies, Bosnian Serbs receive from their ethnic kin in neighbouring rump Yugoslavia, breaks the balance of powers and leaves the Muslims at an obvious disadvantage.

Mr. Clinton told the House in a letter that any U.S. action to lift the embargo would end the Bosnian peace process.

"If one great power or both start supporting their clients it would bring the world back to the worst years of the cold war," Mr. Kozyrev said.

Western attitudes towards the Serbs in former Yugoslavia have frequently annoyed Russia, which has close his-

toric and religious ties with Serbia.

Russia expressed its anger earlier this year when NATO issued an ultimatum to Serb forces, which besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

Russia accused the West of making the decision without consulting Moscow. The incident caused a delay in Russia's joining NATO's programme "partnership for peace," especially designed for ex-Soviet republics and former Soviet block states.

Russia's conservative parliament last month passed a non-binding resolution urging President Boris Yeltsin to consider pulling out of U.N. economic sanctions

against Serbs. Giving Mr. Karadzic, a poet, a non-government literary award and inviting him to Russia is widely viewed as a demonstration of support for Serbs by Russia's influential nationalist groupings.

Mr. Kozyrev made clear that in forming its policy towards Serbs his ministry would ignore any demands from the nationalists.

He said Russia would not unilaterally lift sanctions against Serbs unless this was accompanied by clear moves towards peace.

"We would not take unilateral steps which were not linked to peaceful settlements," he said.

Policeman fined for 'cuffing' youth on ear

LONDON (R) — Outraged British newspapers offered Tuesday to pay the legal costs of a policeman who was fined £100 (£150) for giving an unruly youth an "old-fashioned cuff on the ear." A magistrates court in western England also ordered Steve Guscott, 42, a police officer for 20 years, to pay the 14-year-old £50 (£75) compensation. The teenager complained to police after Mr. Guscott slapped him on the head. Mr. Guscott had been called to disperse a rowdy gang of teenagers in Minehead, southwest England, last March. "It was not more than chastisement of a child. It was certainly not premeditated," Mr. Guscott's lawyer Ian Wilson said. "They should be giving him a medal, not a fine," said the Daily Star newspaper, offering to pay his fines for him.

Sri Lanka applies brakes on elephant sales

COLOMBO (AFP) — President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga has moved to discourage the sale of elephants by Buddhist temples, which receive the animals as gifts from the state, a government newspaper said Monday. Temples were selling off the elephants at about \$20,000 each and asking the government for replacements from the state orphanage for elephants, the evening Observer said. The practice is likely to stop, with Mr. Wijetunga ordering that baby elephants should be given only to temples that are in a financial position to feed the animals, the newspaper said. Elephants are revered in Sri Lanka and are decorated and paraded at Buddhist temple ceremonies. The elephant population in Sri Lanka is believed to be dwindling as many animals are slaughtered by farmers. Ninety-four wild elephants were slaughtered in the island last year, according to wildlife enthusiasts. The current elephant population is estimated at between 2,000 and 2,500.

Naked performance artist, onlookers arrested in Beijing

BEIJING (AP) — Beijing police detained 11 people, including a German engineer, who attended a naked art performance, and were still holding two of the artists Monday, witnesses said. About a dozen plainclothes and uniformed police raided the home of artist Ma Liuming Sunday, the witnesses said on condition that their names not be used. Ma, 25, had just completed an exhibition of performance art that involved stripping naked, cooking potatoes together with a watch and earrings, and then burying the potatoes. The police detained Ma, his assistant, Zhu Ming, 22, and nine people who watched the performance, including a German national who works in Beijing. Police also seized video footage of the performance and earlier examples of Ma's work, the witnesses said. The nine spectators, who included a television filmmaker from Hong Kong, were freed after questioning, the witnesses said. But Ma and Zhu were still in detention late Monday, they added. Beijing has a small but thriving community of independent artists who work outside of China's state-controlled art world.

Bogus Rothschild leads life of Reilly

HELSINKI (AFP) — A man who claimed to be related to the Rothschild banking family after changing his name has been sentenced in absentia to 23 months in prison for fraud and embezzlement, officials said here. Alexander-Marc de Rothschild, born Mark Hutton, had succeeded in obtaining large quantities of goods on credit and in persuading Finnish banks to guarantee the strength of his adopted name, prosecutors said. Born in Singapore, Mr. Hutton had travelled to London and changed his name to De Rothschild, an operation legally possible in Britain, which does not protect family names. He travelled to Finland and, passing himself off as a well-passed, impeccably mannered businessman, lived a life of luxury during the period 1990-91 on fraudulently obtained goods and funds, prosecutors said.

Romanians launch marathon protest

BUCHAREST (R) — Thousands of Romanian workers Tuesday began a week-long anti-government street protest against plunging living standards and sluggish economic reforms.

Some 10,000 trade unionists chanted "thieves, thieves" and handed out leaf-

lets saying "how long shall we starve?" to back demands for protection from near 300 per cent inflation.

Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu, saying the action would destabilise the country, warned Monday he would deploy 10,000 anti-riot troops to prevent trouble, but

the protest seemed orderly and well-stewarded.

About 1,500 miners in pit helmets were among protesters who filled Bucharest's Aviator Square for the rally which began four years to the day after President Ion Iliescu's bloody 1990 coalminers' crackdown.

Rao party defers election reform bill

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's ruling Congress (I) Party suffered a setback Tuesday when it was forced to put on hold a bill aimed at curtailing the powers of controversial chief election commissioner T.N. Seshan.

"The government does not intend to introduce the bill," Minister of State for Law H.R. Bhargava told the lower house of parliament, saying a "consensus" had not been reached with the opposition, whose support was needed for passage.

The about-face was seen by political analysts as a serious embarrassment for the government, which had been frantically lobbying opposition MPs until late Monday to back the legislation.

The bill, which needed the support of two-thirds of parliament to become law, sought to curtail the mercurial Seshan's authority by revamping the election commission to create three commissioners with equal powers.

The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) had come out against the bill and the Congress was counting on the support of MPs from smaller opposition parties in its bid to clip Mr. Seshan's wings.

But opposition MPs said the proposed legislation was ambiguous.

"The intricacies still have to be worked out," said Muhammad Farooqi of the Communist Party of India (CPI).

Mr. Seshan, who has served as chief election commissioner for the past 40 months, was unavailable for comment as Congress spokesman Vithal Nath Gadgil.

Italy's left in need of new leadership

ROME (AFP) — A tough leadership contest was underway within Italy's main opposition party Tuesday following the resignation of its leader Achille Occhetto in the wake of his party's poor showing in the European elections.

Mr. Occhetto, leader of the reformed Communist Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), resigned Monday after results of the European elections put his party well behind Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's right-wing Forza Italia.

The PDS won 19.1 per cent of the vote and Forza Italia 30.6 per cent.

Two other leftist leaders, Ottaviano Del Turco, the national secretary of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), and Willer Bordon, coordinator of the Democratic Alliance, also resigned after their poor showing in the Euro-poll Sunday.

The PSI, linked to the alliance, got 1.8 per cent of the vote compared to 14.8

per cent in the 1989 European Parliament elections.

Observers said results of the vote and Mr. Occhetto's ensuing resignation set up the stage for a tough leadership contest at a time when voters in Italy have swung to the centre-right as demonstrated during the Sunday vote and general elections March 27-28.

The March elections left the PDS with 20.4 per cent of the vote and launched a behind-the-scenes debate about the wisdom of retaining Mr. Occhetto as leader and who should be his successor.

Massimo Cacciari, the philosopher mayor of Venice and former deputy, fired the first volley recently by suggesting that the opposition set up its own structured shadow government that could challenge the right.

But Mr. Cacciari, who broke with the communists 10 years ago, is considered an outsider within the opposition and is unlikely to suc-

ceed Mr. Occhetto.

Those tipped as likely successors include Massimo D'Alema, the PDS number two man, and Walter Veltroni, the editor of the leftist daily L'Unita.

Mr. Veltroni, 40, has refused to discuss the matter but said in an editorial Tuesday that the left must renew its image with new ideas if it wants to be considered seriously by voters.

Other press reports were more direct. Eugenio Scalfari, editor of the daily La Repubblica wrote that if the PDS appointed as its new leader Mr. D'Alema, a man who suffers from a humourless public image, then Mr. Occhetto's "resignation would" have been for nothing.

He added that the PDS must realise that it needs a "leader capable of regrouping all the centre-left opposition, as Mr. Berlusconi managed to do with the Italian centre-right."

Indonesia urged to improve human rights record in East Timor

JAKARTA (AFP) — An Indonesian parliamentary committee has called on the government to respect human rights in East Timor and allow international monitoring groups into the territory, press reports said Tuesday.

"Efforts to solve once and for all the East Timor issue should at least mean a fundamental improvement and restoration of human rights in East Timor," said the Jakarta Post daily citing a report of the inter-parliamentary cooperation committee read in parliament Monday.

The report, read by native East Timorese legislator Salvador Ximenes Soares, also urged the government to pay more attention to the aspirations of local leaders in East Timor rather than to foreign opinion.

Indonesia, which un-

ilaterally declared the former Portuguese colony its 27th province in 1976, has been under continuous criticism for its human rights record there. The United Nations continues to view Portugal as the territory's administrator.

Jakarta was strongly criticised internationally last month for trying to get the Philippine government to cancel a planned private conference on East Timor in Manila. The meeting took place but most of the foreign speakers were not allowed to enter the Philippines.

Mr. Soares said that invitations to visit East Timor should not be limited to United Nations and Portuguese officials but open to international organisations, including Amnesty International and Asia Watch. The two groups are among leading critics of Indonesia's human rights record in East Timor.

He said that direct dialogue with such non-governmental organisations could reduce the existing difference in perception and understanding of Indonesia's human rights policies.

Foreign affairs spokesman Irawan Abidin said Tuesday that U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture and Extra-judicial Execution, Bacre Waly N'Diaye of Senegal, is expected to visit East Timor in July. A date has yet to be set, he said.

Mr. Soares said the parliamentary committee also called on Jakarta to continue efforts to determine the fate of 56 people unaccounted for since Indonesian troops opened fire on a pro-independence demonstration

Clintons quizzed by counsel on Whitewater

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton and first lady Hillary Clinton were questioned under oath about the Whitewater affair by the independent counsel investigating the case, the White House said.

The interviews Sunday covered events related to the death last year of a senior White House lawyer and Clinton friend who had access to the Whitewater file and the failed Arkansas savings and loan through which the Clintons became involved in the land deal.

"Independent counsel Robert Fiske, who is in the process of concluding the Washington phase of his inquiries, conducted interviews yesterday afternoon at the White House with President and Mrs. Clinton," the president's special counsel Lloyd Cutler said in a statement.

Mr. Fiske interviewed the Clintons separately, speaking first for an hour and a half with the president and then for an hour with the first lady, a format chosen by Mr. Fiske, White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said.

Mr. Cutler and the Clintons' personal lawyer, David Kendall, were present, and the presidential couple did not invoke any kind of privilege, Ms. Myers said.

The interviews included discussion of the events surrounding the death last year of White House Deputy Counsel Vincent Foster, Mr. Cutler's statement said. Hillary Clinton and Mr. Foster were both partners at an Arkansas law firm.

Mr. Foster, whose death was ruled a suicide, had access to the Whitewater file and questions have been raised about White House staff removing papers after this death, before police could begin their investigation.

The interview with the Clintons also covered communications between staff at Treasury and the White House about a Treasury investigation into the Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan in Arkansas.

The savings and loan was involved in the Whitewater venture, a failed land deal in which the Clintons invested while Mr. Clinton governor of Arkansas.

Philippine military prepares to attack Muslim kidnappers

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AFP) — The Philippine army is preparing to launch a major offensive against a Muslim gang holding a Roman Catholic priest hostage on the island of Basilan, a senior commander said Tuesday.

"We are ready to launch the big operation against them," Lieutenant General Orlando Soriano, head of military forces in the southern Philippines said of the gang.

The kidnappers, allied to a Muslim fundamentalist guerrilla group, Abu Sayyaf, kidnapped 37 people on June 8 and immediately killed 15 male hostages.

They released 20 of the remaining 22 hostages, mostly schoolteachers, Monday after local officials paid a ransom reported to be as high as one million pesos and have demanded a three million peso (\$112,000) ransom for the release of the priest, Father Cirilo Nacorda.

They are also holding another man.

Gen. Soriano said three battalions of Marines were ready to take part in the

campaign, but added that he was still encouraging government negotiators to try and obtain the release of the priest.

The archbishop of Basilan Tuesday said no ransom would be paid for the priest, even if it meant putting his life at risk.

Marine Colonel Victor Salazar, head of military forces in Basilan, said he believed the Muslims intended to use the priest as a shield to prevent the army from attacking and to give the kidnappers a chance to flee.

The kidnapping and massacre are believed to be in retaliation for a government offensive against the Abu Sayyaf on the nearby island of Jolo earlier this month. At least 41 Abu Sayyaf members were killed in the attack.

Gen. Soriano, who earlier said the army would refuse to pay for the freedom of the hostages, admitted a ransom had been paid, but denied he had been informed of the move beforehand. He reiterated the government position that no ransom would be paid.

Exxon, tanker captain liable in 1989 Alaska oil spill

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AFP) — Exxon Corp. and the captain of the Exxon Valdez acted recklessly in the 1989 accident off the Alaska coast that led to the largest U.S. oil spill, a jury ruled.

The jury ruling against the oil giant and Exxon Valdez Captain Joseph Hazelwood means they could be liable for \$15 billion in punitive damages in addition to \$1.5 billion in lost income and property.

The plaintiffs in the case included more than 10,000 commercial fishermen, property owners and Alaskan natives.

The jury of nine women and three men will determine damages in the federal court trial for the March 24, 1989 spill of 40 million liters (11 million gallons), of crude oil into Prince William Sound.

The claim for punitive damages was based on the plaintiffs contention that Capt. Hazelwood was drunk when he turned over the tanker to an inexperienced crewman in hazardous conditions, and that Exxon knew of the pilot's drinking problems.

During the trial, Capt. Hazelwood — whose actions are at the centre of the dispute — was alternately portrayed as a "respectable man who is being trashed" and as an alcoholic who was drunk

on the job the night of March 24, 1989 when the Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound.

Exxon Chairman Lee Raymond said after the verdict: "We are disappointed with the jury's finding that Exxon's conduct was reckless and that this recklessness was a legal cause of the accidental grounding of the Exxon Valdez."

"We believe... that the evidence presented in the next phases of the trial showing that Exxon has already spent and done will convincingly demonstrate that no award of punitive damages should be made," he added.

The tanker leaked nearly 45 million liters (11 million gallons) of crude oil over some 2,400 kilometres (1,500 miles) along the pristine coast. The foul, black slick killed roughly half a million birds, fish and other wildlife.

The plaintiffs' lead lawyer, Brian O'Neill, said Exxon had discovered more than one year before the spill that Capt. Hazelwood had resumed drinking after undergoing treatment for alcoholism in 1985.

Top Exxon executives testified during the trial, which began on May 2 here, that Capt. Hazelwood was monitored closely but presented no supporting evidence.

Police asked to save Bangladesh feminist

DHAKA (R) — The brother of Bangladeshi feminist writer Taslima Nasrin has lodged a complaint with police against threats to kill his sister and asked them to ensure her safety.

Nasrin has been in hiding for almost two weeks since the government ordered her arrest and a fundamentalist leader offered a reward for her death for allegedly insulting Islam.

Faizul Kabir Noman told the chief metropolitan magistrate of the southern town of Khulna Monday that police must act promptly to save Nasrin, a physician turned writer.

He made the appeal three days after Mufizul Nazrul Islam announced at a Muslim rally in Khulna that he would give 100,000 taka (\$2,500) to anyone who killed Nasrin.

Islam said Nasrin "has committed an unforgivable offence against Islam and must be condemned to death."

Tens of thousands of fun-

damentalists have since demonstrated in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country calling for her death and the punishment of those who supported her.

Nasrin, in her early 30s, provoked the fury of Muslim fundamentalists in Bangladesh by allegedly telling the Statesman newspaper in Calcutta, India, that Islam's holy book, the Koran, should be "revised thoroughly."

Nasrin, who in the past has taken public positions against marriage and religion, has said she was misquoted.

The government ordered her arrest after the Bangladesh Times reprinted the Statesman article on June 4, triggering an angry reaction from local Islamic fundamentalist groups.

Nasrin in a letter Thursday to the speaker of the Bangladesh parliament urged the government to ensure her safety.

But she ignored calls to surrender to the High Court and to seek the protection of

the law, police said Tuesday.

"Not a single word in the Koran can be changed. I know that fully well and I have never said anything about changes in the book," Nasrin said in her letter to Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali.

The female reporter of Statesman failed to understand the difference between the Koran and Sharia (Islamic) Law. I asked for changes in the Sharia Law to ensure equal rights for men and women," she said.

The Statesman reporter, Sujata Sen, denied she had misquoted Nasrin.

"I absolutely stand by my story," said Mr. Sen, who had interviewed Nasrin when the feminist visited Calcutta.

Police arrested two editors of the Bengali newspaper Janakantha, Toab Khan and Borhan Ahmad, last week for allegedly supporting Nasrin and opposing fundamentalists.

The Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights on Tuesday protested

their arrest, saying the move was against freedom of the press and human rights.

The society, headed by Sigma Huda, wife of Information Minister Nazmul Huda, also asked the government to withdraw warrants of arrest issued against two other Janakantha journalists.

As police search nationwide for the author whose comments have infuriated Islamic clerics, her family is receiving phone calls by people threatening to kill them.

"We are receiving anonymous death threats by phone every night...We are consulting lawyers," a family member of Nasreen said Monday.

"Our phone is perhaps being bugged," the woman at Ms. Nasreen's house in Dhaka said in a telephone interview.

She spoke on condition of anonymity, saying she was too afraid to give her name. Ms. Nasreen shares a ninth-floor apartment in downtown Dhaka with her sister and her family.

Kohl predicts he will be reelected

BONN (AP) — Charged by his party's strong showing in European voting, Chancellor Helmut Kohl has predicted that he will be re-elected in October and ridiculed his opponents' hopes of ousting him.

While sometimes seeming like a man preparing for defeat during the past few weeks, Mr. Kohl was in fighting form after his party won more votes than the opposition Social Democrats in Sunday's election for the European Parliament.

"Yesterday was a good day for us and we are enjoying it," the chancellor told reporters. After losing three straight state elections, the European Parliament vote marked an important turnaround for the three-term leader who has served for 12 years.

"I'm expecting a clear victory" in the Oct. 16 federal elections, said Mr. Kohl, who has made so many comebacks in his career that political pundits have become wary of counting him out.

But with polls putting Mr. Kohl and Social Democratic challenger Rudolf Scharping about even for the October vote, the chancellor said his party can't afford to be smug.

"There's no reason to sound the all-clear. We must fight for every vote in the coming weeks and months," said Mr. Kohl.

Election for the European

Union (EU) assembly have confirmed what everyone knew: Voters throughout Europe are unhappy with their governments.

The ruling Conservatives in Britain suffered their worst national election setback. In Spain, the Socialist government was defeated for the first time in 12 years. Governments in France, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Ireland and Belgium also lost ground in Sunday's voting across the 12-nation European Union.

Only Germany and Italy bucked the trend. Mr. Kohl defied recent opinion polls to gain backing from voters, while new Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi's fledgling conservative party increased its support.

Nationalist parties gained ground in France and Belgium, but the far-right Republican Party failed to win any seats in Germany, and support dropped slightly for Italy's National Alliance, which has tried to distance itself from its neo-fascist roots.

Final results from most countries were released Monday in elections for the 567-seat parliament, which can amend legislation, control the EU's 577 billion budget and veto appointments to the union's powerful executive agency.

The ballot reflected the popularity of both individual

governments and the EU, trying to bring member nations closer with a common foreign policy and a single currency by 1999.

In a separate referendum, Austrians boosted the EU's expansion plans by voting overwhelmingly to join the Union. Austria will become a full member on Jan. 1.

Across the Union, Socialists were expected to remain the largest faction with 195 seats, thanks largely to gains by Britain's Labour Party.

The centre-right Christian Democrats were seen coming close behind — with 152 seats — boosted by Mr. Kohl's good showing and the rise of the opposition Popular Party in Spain.

Final results in Britain revealed their worst showing in a national election since records were first kept in 1982. They had won only 18 seats, compared to 62 for the Labour Party, the centrist Liberal Democrats took two to win their first seats ever in the European Parliament.

"The Conservatives have been overtaken by a political earthquake," said Margaret Beckett, Labour's acting leader.

In Spain, the ruling Socialists, battered by political scandals and high unemployment, acknowledged their first nationwide loss since 1979.

Taking only 30.67 per cent

of the vote, the Socialists won 22 seats, down from 27 in 1989. With 40.21 per cent of the vote, the Popular Party secured 28 Euro-parliament seats, up from 16 in the outgoing assembly.

Mr. Gonzalez hinted he may give way to demands for early general elections after the Socialists slipped into second place for the first time in 12 years.

Mr. Berlusconi continued his honeymoon with Italian voters three months on from the national election success of his Forza Italia (Let's Go, Italy) party.

Complete results announced Monday by the Interior Ministry gave Forza Italia 30.6 per cent, compared to 21 per cent in the March national elections.

In France, the centre-right governing coalition came out on top with 25.5 per cent after all votes were counted. Socialists leader Michel Rocard suffered a serious blow to his hopes to replace Francois Mitterrand in next year's presidential elections by scoring a dismal 14.5 per cent.

Maverick groups eroded support for the mainstream parties, charismatic, scandal-struck businessman Bernard Tapie took votes from the left, and the anti-EU "Other Europe" group scored 12.38 per cent, signalling the emergence of a new force on the right.

Rwandan Hutu militia blocks U.N. rescue of civilians

KIGALI (R) — Hutu militiamen halted U.N. efforts Tuesday to rescue hundreds of Hutu civilians trapped and in fear of their lives in government-held areas of Rwanda's capital Kigali, aid workers said.

The militias, widely blamed for massacres in which more than 500,000 people have been killed, let the U.N. ferry around 300 frightened Tutsi civilians Monday from the Sainte Famille Church complex to rebel lines.

But the evacuation operation, resuming after a 10-day suspension, ground to a halt Tuesday.

"There will be no evacuation today (Tuesday), the militia has refused us permission," one aid worker said.

Some 2,300 Tutsi civilians remain in the church complex, protected from the militias hanging about in the streets outside only by a cordon of police loyal to the Hutu government.

"There has been some disagreement about the lists of refugees to be taken out of the Sainte Famille," said the aid worker.

The Hutu militia, who blocked earlier evacuation attempts, last month threatened the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) rescue operation Monday by mulling about the four U.N. trucks taking the minority Tutsi away.

After negotiations, the militia allowed the convoy to travel to the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)-held town of Kabuga some 20 kilometres to the north of Kigali.

Monday's evacuation was the first after a suspension imposed because the Tutsi-dominated rebels fired on a convoy taking civilians into government territory.

The U.N. had planned to continue the exercise Tuesday during a temporary truce secured to facilitate the operation.

The guns fell silent half an hour after the 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) deadline Tuesday, and both sides seem to hold their mortar and artillery fire late into the morning but the crackle of small arms fire could occasionally be heard.

Ceasefire talks between



A Ghanaian U.N. soldier evacuates a Tutsi child from a government-held sector of Kigali to Kabonga, in Kigali's outskirts (AFP photo)

the two sides resumed at 10 a.m. (0200 GMT) Tuesday. The two sides, however, seemed no closer to a breakthrough in the talks to halt fighting that began after the April 6 assassination of President Juvenal Habyarimana.

The RPF says that before it agrees to a ceasefire with the Hutu government army, the mass killings of Tutsis must end and the Hutu militias must be disbanded.

The government forces want an end to the fighting before they order the army to stop the militias' killings.

These issues were discussed at talks between RPF chief negotiator Colonel Frank Mugambage and government Brigadier-General Marcel Gatsinzi Monday.

A government army officer is reported to have confirmed to the U.N. that Garamba, one-time seat of the interim government, was 90 per cent in the hands of the rebels.

"There is fighting," said Gen. Gatsinzi curtly when he arrived for Tuesday's ceasefire talks.

The RPF government has fled Garamba for the north-western town of Gisenyi and appears to have little communication with its army leaders in Kigali.

RPF military chief Major-General Paul Kagame, meanwhile, said he still wanted more territory but that he was closer to a "political strategy" to end the war.

"First in line is our military strategy, but we are closer to the political one," he told reporters.

Garamba straddles the road to Kigali 40 kilometres to the northeast, so thousands of government soldiers and the Hutu militias can only escape from there on foot through the hills.

The town is historically a Tutsi village which is of great importance to the rebels who

are mainly of that clan. Ousted about the situation in Garamba, Gen. Gatsinzi simply confirmed that "there is fighting over there."

Col. Mugambage, however, said the town was "under total control" of the RPF.

A U.N. military spokesman said he had been told by the RPF officer that the United Nations could visit Garamba, probably Thursday.

The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Kigali, Philippe Gaillard, said his hospital had not been shelled for 24 hours. Two shells fell in the hospital compound and five or six just outside, but no-one was injured.

The RPF said it is firing at heavy artillery set up by government forces near the ICRC quarters. But Mr. Gaillard said the regular army headquarters had told him there were no heavy weapons within 400 metres of the ICRC.

The RPF is slowly pressing its advantage in the city. It bombed the southern Gikondo district and is advancing on the city centre and the Presidential Guards' barracks.

In Nairobi, rebel radio reported Tuesday that RPF troops had found a mass grave in Garamba.

Radio Muhabura, monitored by the BBC, said RPF fighters had found an enormous hole in which many people had been buried. The radio gave no further details.

Meanwhile South Africa has a "difficult problem" with a U.N. request that it supply 50 armoured personnel carriers for use in Rwanda, President Nelson Mandela said Tuesday.

In an interview from Tunis, where he attended the annual summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Mr. Mandela also told the private Radio 702 station here that South Africa was not in a position to send a military force to the strife-torn central African country.

He said the United Nations wanted to hire the armoured vehicles from South Africa but had asked that they be accompanied by the troops to drive them.

Israel wins assurance of Italian friendship

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — Israel has sought and won assurances from Italy that the presence of five neo-fascists in the new Italian government would have no impact on relations between the two countries.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino told his Israeli counterpart, Shimon Peres, that the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi would do everything possible to increase friendship and cooperation with Israel.

The two men held talks for more than one hour in the margins of a meeting of European Union (EU) foreign ministers. Mr. Peres expressed concern at the neo-fascist element of the Italian government.

Mr. Martino replied that

the Berlusconi cabinet would be closer to Israel than any Italian government of the last 20 years.

Mr. Martino pledged Rome's help in boosting Israel's relations with the EU, and in mobilising the G-7 group of industrialised countries to press for an end to the Arab boycott of Israeli goods.

Speaking to journalists afterwards, Mr. Peres said the Jewish people were sensitive and uncompromising towards some political positions — a clear reference to fascism.

"We'll do what is best in our judgment," he said about relations with Italy, adding that Israel would judge the Italian government by its actions.

Mr. Peres said that the

Italian government included some "good friends" of Israel including the prime minister and his foreign minister.

Later, the Israeli foreign minister met his EU counterparts for talks on relations between Israel and Brussels.

Mr. Peres said the talks focused on EU support for Palestinian autonomy under the Middle East peace process, and Israel's campaign for greater access to EU research and development.

Responding to questions, Mr. Peres repeated Israel's insistence that the status of Jerusalem as an "Israeli city" was not up for negotiation during the first two years of the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accord.

Asked whether Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser

Arafat would be allowed to visit Jerusalem, he said: "Arafat has not asked and we are not so quick as to give answers before we get the question."

After the meeting, the chairman of the EU's council of ministers, Theodoros Pangalos, said the union aimed to strengthen political, scientific and cultural relations with Israel along with trade and economic links.

And the EU's commissioner for foreign relations, Hans van den Broek, called on the international community to dig deeper into its pockets to make a Palestinian state viable.

The EU has pledged 500 million ECUs (\$565 million) over five years to help pay for Palestinian autonomy.

Majali leaves for U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

confirmed reports said it could take place on June 30. In a departure statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Majali said the meeting between the King and President Clinton was very important since the two leaders would discuss means to enhance bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process particularly the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations.

"Progress on one track of negotiations will be good for other tracks," Dr. Majali said.

The prime minister reaffirmed Jordan's consistent demand for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Dr. Majali, however, said

inter-Arab coordination in the peace process at this point in time was not up to the desired level. At the same time, he said, such coordination "exists whenever there is an opportunity."

"Whenever there are any developments, other parties are kept informed," he said.

Dr. Majali said Jordan was close to signing an agreement with London's Lloyds Register on observing outgoing and incoming cargo at Aqaba as part of the enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq.

"There is a minor issue" to be settled before the agreement is signed, he said.

Dr. Majali was seen off from Amman by Deputy Prime Minister Thougou Hindawi, Cabinet members and senior officials.

Israeli torture

(Continued from page 12)

ated, rigid and increasingly painful regime of physical constraints and psychological pressures" that in many cases lasted a month.

It said methods used in nearly all interrogations included prolonged deprivation of sleep, using blindfolds or tight-fitting hoods.

"In a large number of cases, detainees are also moderately or severely beaten by their interrogators," said the group, formerly called Middle East Watch.

It based its report on interviews with 36 Palestinians interrogated since June 1992, including 10 questioned since the September 1993 signing of the autonomy deal.

The report said Israeli leaders could not claim ignorance that "ill-treatment is the norm in interrogation centres."

But the group, which documented alleged abuses between 1992 and 1994, said Israeli secret police now resorted less to beatings — while relying more extensively on psychological and physical pressures such as shackling detainees in contorted positions.

Israeli army interrogations, it said, had become more standardised, with beating still the norm but instances of extreme violence less common. It said Israel should

revoke clauses in secret police guidelines permitting physical force.

The army often used the "gas pedal," the report said, in which an interrogator presses his foot into the crotch of the detainee who has his hands cuffed behind his back.

It noted however that "the frequency and brutality of the violence appears to have diminished somewhat in recent years."

Body abuse positions included forced standing, shackling in bent positions, confinement in tiny cubicles for days at a time.

Interrogators also induce fear, exhaustion and disorientation by depriving Palestinians of sleep and access to toilets, isolation, hooding or blindfolding, extreme temperatures, loud music around the clock and threats.

Human Rights Watch called on European Union states to raise the issue of torture in negotiations to upgrade a free trade accord with Israel.

"There are a few cases where soldiers are wrong and they are punished," a senior military source said.

"If somebody is trying to be brutal it is not routine, but you have to know that those (interrogation) centres are not hotels."

EU, Ukraine sign partnership deal

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) —

The European Union signed a ground-breaking partnership and cooperation agreement with Ukraine here Tuesday, but warned Kiev to close down its Chernobyl nuclear power plant as quickly as possible.

The agreement, the first between the EU and a country of the former Soviet Union, was signed by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, EU foreign and European Affairs ministers, and the European Commission.

Mr. Kravchuk asked for continuing EU support and warned that instability in Ukraine could threaten the whole of Europe.

"If the ship of the Ukrainian state should pitch and roll, this could create potential fire of instability in Europe," he said.

The accord gives Ukraine easier access to Western European markets, and offers the prospect of a free trade agreement after 1997 if Ukraine makes progress to-

wards a free market economy.

A similar agreement with Russia is to be signed by EU leaders and Russian President Boris Yeltsin at an EU summit on the Greek island of Corfu Friday next week.

The two pacts are key elements of Western attempts to bolster economic reform in the former Soviet Union.

The chairman of the EU council of ministers, Theodoros Pangalos of Greece, said ratification of the accord with Ukraine was conditional on Kiev dismantling its nuclear arsenal under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

He denied that the EU had also made implementation of the treaty conditional on Ukraine closing down its Chernobyl nuclear power plant, although diplomats insisted that the condition was implicit.

Mr. Pangalos said Ukraine had agreed to shut the dangerous Chernobyl nuclear power plant — where the

world's worst-ever nuclear accident happened in 1986 — if it could be promised help in finding alternative energy sources.

The EU is to mobilise the G-7 group of leading industrialised nations — meeting at a Naples summit next month — to help pay for the close-down of Chernobyl and the building of three new nuclear power reactors.

Part of the project involves placing a new sarcophagus over the Chernobyl Number 4 reactor which exploded in 1976. Mr. Pangalos warned of apparent radio-active leakage from the existing sarcophagus.

He stressed that other G-7 countries should help share the burden of paying for the Chernobyl close-down. This was a clear reference to the United States and Japan.

The EU ministers urged Ukraine to seek new energy policies based on international standards of nuclear safety, development of alternative energy sources such as coal,

and the more economical use of energy.

An EU official noted that Ukraine consumed twice as much energy as France although its economy was a quarter the size.

According to EU estimates, the cost of closing down the Chernobyl plant and completing three new nuclear reactors to acceptable safety standards would be nearly \$2 billion.

In recent weeks Ukraine has raised its own estimate from \$2 billion to \$14 billion in what diplomats here called an attempt to exploit the Chernobyl scare by squeezing as much aid as possible from the West.

Mr. Kravchuk told the EU ministers that Ukraine urgently wanted to break its energy dependence on Russian oil and gas.

Diplomats reported differences among the EU countries over a strategy for pressing Ukraine to close down the Chernobyl station, with some complaining of the cost.

Alarm grows over Korean crisis

(Continued from page 1)

month on a pro-Pyongyang Korean school in Japan on suspicion of involvement in illegal land transactions, Korea said.

Police raided the Kyoto Chosen Gakuen school in western Japan on June 6 suspecting that its owners bought land illegally in 1990 and 1991 to relocate their school building.

Later, police said the school authorities — affiliated to the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) — had committed no offence.

He and a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the south, which is this week practising air-raid and mass-evacuation drills, would not be intimidated.

In a sign that months of uncertainty are finally taking their toll, the Seoul stock market, previously immune to nuclear alarms, closed down 2.11 per cent.

Foreign Minister Han Sang-Joo said there was still a chance for the north to settle the issue through dialogue. "I want to emphasise that peaceful settlement is still our hope. We will continue to leave that possibility open."

In Washington, the State Department said any removal of IAEA cameras or inspectors to monitor spent fuel removed from the North's

Yonghyon nuclear reactor "would be a new and very dangerous development."

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright said on Monday the first draft of a sanctions resolution might be distributed within 24 hours.

Mr. Clinton expressed deep concern in a call to Mr. Hata about Pyongyang's latest move, Japanese official said.

Hata described the situation as grave but added: "The United Nations must respond in one way or another."

Mr. Clinton also called Mr. Yeltsin and a White House spokesman said they "agreed on a general approach to sanctions." Mr. Yeltsin himself said he had linked sanctions with a call for an international conference about the security of the Korean Peninsula, a proposal that aroused little enthusiasm in Washington in the past.

"Our proposal was to put to the Security Council simultaneously an international conference and sanctions, stage-by-stage," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters in Moscow.

"This is a very serious matter," China, North Korea's last major ally and its biggest trading partner, has the power to veto a Security Council sanctions resolution or to abstain but ignore any embargo.

Ibrahimi sees progress

(Continued from page 1)

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and the Security Council on his findings.

A U.N. statement issued in Geneva on Tuesday said Dr. Ghali regretted that the two sides had failed to heed the U.N. ceasefire call. He said both sides had given repeated assurances they would accept the truce and resume talks to end the fighting.

Spokeswoman Therese Gastaut said Dr. Ghali had received an interim report from Mr. Ibrahimi but would not give details.

Mr. Gastaut said Dr. Ghali had once again urged both sides to observe a ceasefire immediately to allow humanitarian assistance to reach Aden and other parts of Yemen.

Chapuis, of the medical aid group Medicine Sans Frontiers (MSF — Doctors Without Borders), as she helped to distribute buckets to 30 refugee families sheltering in the Hussein Abdelqawi school here.

Dr. Chapuis said the danger lies in the old artesian wells around Aden, where the city's 500,000 residents were forced to collect water after northern troops bombed the Bir Nasser water pumping station 15 kilometres away and cut off water supplies for a week.

She said all sorts of vessels — including old dustbins — were being plunged into the wells. "Even if we assume the water is clean at the bottom, it risks being contaminated," she said.

Russia launches peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia

MOSCOW (AFP) — Presi-

dent Boris Yeltsin Tuesday agreed to sending up to 2,500 Russian peacekeepers to the separatist west Georgian republic of Abkhazia, Deputy Defence Minister General Georgi Khondratyev said.

Gen. Khondratyev, Russia's pointman on peacekeeping operations in the Commonwealth of Independent States, was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying he would travel to the Black Sea region Tuesday to oversee the deployment of a first detachment based in the Transcaucasus.

The deputy defence minister said that parliamentary approval was not needed to dispatch troops already based in the Transcaucasus even though the upper house of parliament or Federation Council voted against the deployment of Russian troops there on June 2.

Lawmakers argued that Russians should not have to risk their lives in Abkhazia, site of heavy fighting last year between separatist forces and government troops.

Georgia lost Abkhazia in September 1993 after 13 months of fighting that claimed between 3,000 to 10,000 lives according to va-

rious estimates and forced 250,000 Georgian refugees out of the Muslim enclave to central parts of the Caucasus republic.

The peacekeeping plans stirred controversy as Russian troops covertly backed Abkhazian separatists in the fighting that led to the fall of Abkhazia's main city Sukhumi despite a Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement.

Georgian nationalists note that although the Russian troops are officially dispatched to stop the fighting, their presence also underscores Moscow's ability to gain a foothold in regions outside its borders.

Gen. Khondratyev said that a first team of Russians would be dispatched from between Wednesday and Tuesday to clear mines in Abkhazia and to set up three communications and operations headquarters in Sukhumi, in the town of Gali on the frontier between Abkhazia and Georgia, and in the west Georgian centre of Zugdidi.

Three detachments of Russian troops were to take up positions on Thursday, through Sunday along a 48-kilometre buffer zone bordering the Inguri River, the frontier between Abkha-

zia and the rest of Georgia. The deployment of additional forces to Abkhazia would have to be submitted to the Federation Council, Gen. Khondratyev said, adding that Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev planned to address lawmakers to win support for more troops on June 21.

The peacekeeping operation was to be completed and in full operation by June 26, according to Gen. Khondratyev who said that U.N. military observers were to supervise the deployment.

He added that officers from Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan might join Russian peacekeepers as observers.

The 2,500 troops were to be recruited on a volunteer contract basis, Gen. Khondratyev said, adding that an additional two billion rubles (\$1 million) from the Defence Ministry was put aside to finance the special operation.

Mr. Yeltsin signed a decree last week authorising the peacekeeping operation but he stated that parliamentary approval was needed for it to go through.

Meanwhile, the strategic Gabali radar station in north-

ern Azerbaijan will continue to be used by Russia free of charge, under an accord reached by the Russian defence minister and the Azerbaijani president, the Azerbaijani News Agency, Turan, reported Monday.

The radar station was set up just over 10 years ago to detect intercontinental missiles.

The Russian Defence Ministry will continue to use the radar station without paying Azerbaijan, Turan reported, citing the press service of the Azerbaijan Defence Ministry.

An "informed source" at the ministry was quoted as saying, however, that in exchange for using this station, Moscow would make "certain concessions on other military questions." No details on either the concessions or the military questions were given.

Sacchi says it is time to play good soccer

MARTINSVILLE, N.J. (AP) — Time has come for Italy to play good soccer for 90 minutes, after showing samples of its potential in recent warmup matches.

Cosco Arrigo Sacchi said Monday that Italy's opening World Cup game against Ireland will give clear indications on whether the "Azzurri" can produce a steady quality of play and earn a top spot in the one-month competition.

Italy, which has won three titles in 1934, 1938 and 1982, is rated among the top contenders in the upcoming edition.

"The field will give us the answers. The game will say if we can play at good levels throughout if we succeed, we will earn victory (against Ireland) and the belief that we can go far away in the World Cup," the Italian coach said at the Pigny School, Italy's training camp.

Italy takes on Ireland at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford Saturday in its first game of a preliminary round also including Norway and Mexico.

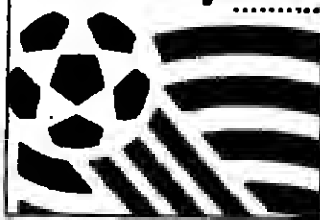
Sacchi was critical of Italy's recent unimpressive performances against Switzerland and Costa Rica.

Both games — in Rome before the team departure for the United States and in New Haven, Conn. Saturday — ended with 1-0 wins, on goals by striker Giuseppe Signori.

However, the Italian team play was dull in the first 45 minutes and the midfield often erratic.

"The team certainly has some problems, the play was not of top quality. We can't be satisfied with 15-20 minutes of good play per game and can't think to earn praise

WorldCupUSA



for that. We must improve. The match with Ireland will be a decisive test," Sacchi said.

The coach said he'll announce the lineup on the eve of Saturday's match, thus avoiding to fuel controversies about the possible use of Daniele Massaro in place of Dino Baggio — no relation with the team star-forward Roberto Baggio.

Massaro's inclusion in the second half with Costa Rica noticeably improved Italy's play and helped a more offensive attitude by Roberto Baggio and Signori.

"Dino Baggio was sidelined (by knee cap surgery) this year and is paying for his long inactivity. I keep him in great esteem. He is not yet in peak form, but other (Italian) players are not in their best form, too," the coach said.

Massaro, a 33-year-old veteran forward of AC Milan, scored a streak of decisive goals in league and champions cup matches this year, helping Milan powerhouse to score an unprecedented double triumph in the same season.

Sacchi said Italian players were growing a "normal, positive pressure" for the game with Ireland.

"Many of them have learned to stand in international games with their clubs. Certainly the Irish players

are tense, too. It's a very important game, awarding three points and a good start in the tournament," Sacchi said.

Newly-enforced World Cup rules provide three points for each victory, and one for a draw, in preliminary rounds.

Sacchi said he hoped that the new system "would force all teams to play for a win, rather than for a draw."

"Ireland is a team with a great fighting spirit, which greatly improved in the last four years, after reaching the quarterfinals in Italy (in the 1990 World Cup). It's a reality in world soccer and is extremely dangerous for its aggressive play."

"They like long passes and headers. We must not accept to play Irish style, we must impose the Italian way of quick, short passes for overcoming a tough opponent," Sacchi explained.

AC Milan's key defender Paolo Maldini, who did not play against Costa Rica following a pulled right thigh muscle, was likely to resume full-time training Wednesday and be fit for Saturday's match.

Roberto Baggio, the 1993 world best player, still was nursing a light right achilles tendon inflammation but team doctors said he was improving day after day.

Goalie Gianluca Pagliuca, who may transfer from Sampdoria to Internazionale of Milan soon after the World Cup, said he was happy with the lack of fans pressure in U.S. training sites.

"Many Americans clearly do not know us... But this is a good condition for preparing for the cup. I like it," Pagliuca said.



GERMANS ARRIVE: German team captain Lothar Matthäus arrives with his team at O'Hare Airport in Chicago Monday for the upcoming 1994 World Cup. Germany will open the World Cup June 17 against Bolivia at Soldier Field (AP photo)

FIFA denies water claims of Irish team

NEW YORK (AP) — FIFA Monday denied claims by the Irish national team that players would not be allowed to drink water during World Cup games, saying the restrictions only included requiring players to come to the sidelines for it.

"FIFA encourages players to drink, but they can't do it in the middle field," FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said from Dallas. "We don't want bottles thrown on the field."

British newspapers quoted Irish team officials as saying FIFA was banning all drinking during games.

"Unless FIFA lift this water ban, there could be a fatality at this World Cup," Michael Walsh, chief medical officer for Ireland's football association, was quoted as saying.

"When players lose 4 per cent of their body weight, which is about 8 pounds (3.5 kilograms), they quickly get cramps, become dizzy and disoriented. If water is not brought to them very quickly, it could become

something very serious. We have made another representation to FIFA for this ruling to be changed."

But Tognoni was incredulous that the Irish team came up with their particular interpretation of the regulation, particularly since the regulation is unchanged from the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

"I have no idea where this came from," he said. "The Irish, excluding Jack Charlton, were at (FIFA's) New York workshop (in February). We even sent a circular letter telling them to drink."

FIFA conducted a week-long workshop in New York for all 24 teams playing the World Cup, explaining operations, including new things such as the "mixed zone" interview areas for players and coaches.

"The field is to play, not to drink. The field is not a bar," Tognoni said. "Also there is a certain danger with throwing the bottles."

The issue has caused quite a stir, sparking calls to FIFA's World Cup headquarters.

"We have received several

requests," Tognoni said. "I don't know, maybe something happened in prep games in Canada."

"They (Ireland) know this already. If they have problem they can call FIFA. Meanwhile, they have an experienced World Cup team."

Tognoni said FIFA supplies all teams with any equipment they need to take on the field — including water bottles. The reason is that FIFA wants to avoid any unofficial advertising.

"Every team receives 20 bottles," Tognoni said. "They only have FIFA emblem, that's not new for teams, teams knew this for several months."

"Whatever is carried on field is provided for by FIFA: Bags for goalkeepers, coolers, bags for medical treatment."

Tognoni said there has been no effort on FIFA's part to contact Ireland to clarify the issue.

"I think they (Ireland) do understand," he said. "We would be crazy not to let them drink."

World Cup on course to turn a profit

WASHINGTON (AP) — With \$750 million in revenue guaranteed, sponsorship deals have met half of the 1994 World Cup budget of \$1.5 billion.

"We have already met our objectives," World Cup spokesman John Griffin said. He estimated the Cup, which starts June 17 in nine cities across America, would realize a surplus of \$25 million.

To make the most of its sources of revenue, the organizing committee instituted several levels of sponsorship.

Eleven multinational corporations paid between \$10 and \$20 million to join the elite group of official sponsors. FIFA, football's governing body, will pocket all the revenues from this category.

Sponsors are counting on a cumulative audience of 32 billion for the 52 matches although their main target is the non-U.S. market.

"Soccer is the universal

language. If you set out to match a global brand with a global sport, there is no better choice," said a spokesman for Gillette, which has the longest history of World Cup sponsorship among U.S. companies.

Coca-Cola, a World Cup sponsor since 1978, is also focusing its promotions on the non-American market.

Gary Hart, Coke's vice president in charge of international sports marketing, admitted they were not primarily attracted because the competition was taking place in the United States.

"We bought into it because it is such a magnificent global event," he said.

The credit card company Mastercard will spend about \$75 million on sponsorship and advertising during the tournament.

"We have targeted the World Cup as a platform to help us build brand awareness internationally," said Mava Heffler, vice president

of advertising operations.

Both Mastercard and McDonald's will broadcast global television commercials using the same ads on every continent.

General Motors plan to differentiate their advertising messages by match, using the advertising boards that surround the pitch.

During matches of interest in Europe and South East Asia, GM will advertise Opel. For games involving Latin American teams GM will plug Chevrolet.

Eight firms are "marketing partners." They paid \$7 million each for the right to use the World Cup logo. These companies are focusing mainly on the U.S. market, but they also hope to raise their profiles overseas.

All revenues from this category go to World Cup USA.

The eight manufacturers of "official products" paid \$2.5 million apiece and they are targeting the 16 million reg-

istered soccer players in the United States and their families, a market estimated to be between 40 and 50 million.

There are 15 equipment suppliers, who furnish the organizing committee with \$1 million worth of goods and services in exchange for advertising space.

The "regional partners," banks and companies that operate locally in the United States, paid \$250,000 each for advertising rights at the various sites.

Finally, 100 firms have bought the right to manufacture "related products" such as T-shirts, key chains and video cassettes bearing the official logo. Sales of such items are expected to reach \$400 million.

Revenues from the last four categories will be shared equally by FIFA and World Cup USA.

The organizing committee have also signed a \$100 million broadcast globally during the competition.

Spike Lee adopts Indomitable Lions

LOS ANGELES, California (AP) — American filmmaker Spike Lee, long known as a basketball fanatic, has turned soccer supporter for the World Cup, with special affection for the African teams in the finals.

Lee, whose court-side antics on behalf of the New York Knicks have endeared this season's National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs, hosted a benefit for financially-strapped finalists Cameroon Friday that was expected to generate more than \$50,000.

But Lee said he would not limit his interest to behind the scenes support.

"I definitely want to make the Brazil-Cameroon game," he said. "I don't think they'll allow me to be close to the field, it's different than with the Knicks."

Lee, whose films include the racially charged "Do the Right Thing," "Jungle Fever" and "Malcolm X," said he hoped the U.S. black community would back Cameroon and the other African finalists.

"I'm trying to get the African-American community behind African teams," he said. "I've seen the way the Italian and Irish communities have embraced their teams. I've seen 2,000 fans at the airport to greet the Italian team," he said.

Much has been made of the contributions of ethnic communities to football in the United States, but Lee said most black Americans were relative newcomers to the game.

"I hope this brings awareness," he said. "Soccer is the world's most popular sport. It's an opportunity to get introduced."

Lee said the sports heroes of his youth were basketball players like Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Julius Erving and Magic Johnson, while the feats of Pele were unknown to him.

'That ugly American sport'

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Like most Europeans, Norwegian national soccer team coach Egil Olsen thinks of the game he has devoted his life to as "football." So what would he call American football? "Awful," he said Monday about the once saw at Giants Stadium in New Jersey. Olsen had gone to inspect the stadium where his team will play two of its three games in this month's first round of the World Cup soccer tournament. While there he had the chance to watch helmeted, heavily-padded U.S. professional football players face off on the line of scrimmage. "They'd play for about 9 seconds and then stop. It was awful. It was so boring. It was definitely nothing for me," said Olsen. What was the worst thing about it? "They called it football," he said.

Reporters-security battle is under investigation

DALLAS, Texas (AP) — FIFA has ordered an inquiry into a battle between Brazilian soccer reporters and security guards Sunday.

"We are waiting for a full report," FIFA spokesman Stefano Pucci said Monday.

Post-match interviews degenerated into a free-for-all between journalists and guards after Brazil beat El Salvador 4-0 in a World Cup warm-up match in Fresno, California.

"It was waiting to talk to Branco when a guard grabbed me by the elbow," said Globo television reporter Tino Marcos.

"I pulled my elbow away

and then he punched me in the stomach. Suddenly dozens of my colleagues started kicking the guard from behind."

Security men and police officers called in to guard the dressing room door said they had been given orders not to allow any interviews.

However, the Brazilian journalists said the ban did not extend to interviews outside the dressing room.

"There are always problems at the beginning of any World Cup," Pucci added.

It was Brazil's last warm-up before their opening match in San Francisco on June 20 against Russia.

Reclusive Russians prepare for Brazil

SANTA CRUZ, California (AP) — Russia are keeping a low profile as their 1994 World Cup opener against favorites Brazil approaches.

Security was tight around the Chaminade Conference Centre where the Russians are staying, the training sessions at Cabrillo College are closed to fans and media.

"We want peace and quiet," said team administrator Nikita Simonyan. "We don't want reporters or fans bothering us while we prepare for this important opening match."

Russia is playing in the World Cup for the first time, though Russians were the backbone of the old Soviet Union sides.

Their hopes were dimmed slightly by a players' revolt against manager Pavel Saduyin, though in fact only four of the original 15 rebels returned to join the World Cup squad.

Despite their tough group, which also includes Cameroon and Sweden, the Russians are cautiously optimistic.

The match against Brazil, in San Francisco June 20, will be key, and Simonyan said his team may benefit from the pressure placed on the South Americans.

"First matches are always very tough to play and some outsiders have heaped favorites in the past," he said.

"No one should underestimate us," said forward Sergei Yuran. "We can manage at least a draw against Brazil."

Properties for sale

The Embassy of the United States of America, Amman, Jordan, is offering for sale the following Two properties.

1) The former U.S. Ambassador residence parcel No. (2052) in Block No. (33) with the buildings and constructions thereon situated in Jabal Amman between the First and Second circle opposite Al Kulliyah Al Islamiyah.

2) The former American Embassy warehouse parcel No. (38) block No. (11) with the buildings and constructions thereon situated in Jabal Amman seventh circle, near Al-Waha stores.

Vacant possession of the properties is expected to be provided on or about August 25, 1994.

Information about the properties and instructions for interested buyers may be obtained by delivering a letter of interest to Mr. Joseph Huggins, Counselor for Administration at the American Embassy, Amman, Jordan not later than July 5, 1994.

All letters of interest must be submitted by and in the name of the bidders themselves or their legal representatives (if they are a registered legal entity). Proof of agency may be required from any agent at any time.

The U.S. Embassy will not pay any fees, commissions or expenses to real estate agents, brokers or middlemen of any sort or to any persons whoever they may be.

عقار للبيع

تتوي سفارة الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية في عمان - الأردن ببيع العقارين التاليين:

١ - قطعة رقم (٢٠٥٢) حوض رقم (٣٣) مع كمال البنية التحتية والانشاءات القائمة عليها والعلاقات والمكين السابق للسفارة الأمريكية والمكين في جبل عمان ما بين الدوار الاول والدخلى مقابل الكلية العلمية الإسلامية.

٢ - قطعة رقم (٣٨) الحوض رقم (١١) مع كمال البنية التحتية والانشاءات القائمة عليها والتي كانت تستعمل كمستودعات للسفارة الأمريكية سابقا والكلية في جبل عمان الدوار السابع قرب محلات الواح.

من المتوقع ان يصبح العقاران خاليين من الشواغل في احوالي ٢٥ / تموز ١٩٩٤.

يمكن الحصول على المعلومات المتعلقة بالعقارين وشروط البيع للمهتمين بالشراء مقابل تقديم طلب منهم يملكون بوجوبه عن اعطائهم بقرض موجه الى السيد جوزيف هوجنس مستشار الشؤون الادارية في السفارة الأمريكية في عمان في موعد الصاء ٥ / تموز ١٩٩٤.

تقدم جميع كتب المهنين في الشراء من قبلهم مباشرة ويسمهم لوجدهم او من يمثلهم قوتونا (ان كانوا شخصية معنوية مسجلة) ويمكن للسفارة ان تطلب من الممثل القانوني في اي وقت ما يثبت صفة قوتونا.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Curry's medals to be auctioned

LONDON (AP) — The three gold medals won by the late British figure skater John Curry in 1976 will be sold at Sotheby's auction house next month to raise money for his widowed mother. The medals, from the European championships, Olympic games and world championships, were consigned to auction by Curry before his death from an AIDS-related illness April 15. The proceeds from the sale, to be estimated around £10,000 (\$15,000), will be used "according to Curry's wish which was to benefit his family and in particular his widowed mother," a statement from Sotheby's said. "John lost a terrible amount of money," 70-year-old Ruth Curry told the Daily Mail. "We had no savings, no investments." Curry, 44, was the first Briton to win an Olympic figure skating title.

Walker rejoins Celtic

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Andy Walker rejoined Celtic here Monday, just two years after quitting the club to join Bolton in England. The 29-year-old striker signed a three-year contract at Parkhead. The fee has yet to be decided between the clubs. Walker, an FA Cup hero for Bolton over the past two seasons, is currently out of contract. Walker said: "I have been back to see Celtic play a few times but I did not think I would be back as a player. It has always been the club closest to my heart and I always looked for their result. My plan would be to be part of a Celtic side that is back winning trophies and leagues soon." Tottenham defender Colin Calderwood has also arrived at Celtic Park for transfer talks with Macari.

Holyfield 'better' after healing session

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The three-knockdown rule apparently was not in effect for Evander Holyfield during a Christian healing session. In fact, Holyfield felt so good after the service that he is considering a return to boxing. Holyfield dropped to a stage three times Friday night and proclaimed himself ready to resume his career. The former heavyweight champion, who retired in April because of what doctors call a stiff heart, said he had "a warm feeling" go through his chest after faith healer Benny Hinn touched him. "I was searching for a reason to come back, but the right reason," Holyfield said. "I know I can go back and win, but win for the Lord. I'm healed."

Jaskula out of Tour de France

PARIS (AFP) — Polish rider Zenon Jaskula, third in the Tour de France last year, will not take part in this year's race after the team line-up was announced Tuesday. Twenty-one teams and 189 riders will be at the start July 2 at Lille — but Jaskula's Monaco-based team Jolly were not included in the starters. Tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc said: "We regret losing him but he and his team have done nothing this year to justify taking part." Jaskula failed to finish both the Tour of Spain and Tour of Italy this season. The best represented country is Italy with eight teams, followed by France's four entrants and three from Spain.

IAAF axes indoor walk races

PARIS (AFP) — Indoor race walking has been axed by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), it was announced Tuesday. A meeting of the IAAF council at Monaco led to the decision, which spelt out that indoor walking had little public support. The meeting also rubber-stamped decisions that the 1998 World Cup would be staged in Johannesburg, with Cape Town hosting the 1994 World Cross Country Championships.

Courier, Stich advance in straight-set victories at Halle

HALLE, Germany (AP) — Jim Courier and Michael Stich marched to easy victories Monday in first round matches at the Halle Grand Prix — a tournament that serves as a final tuneup before Wimbledon. Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion and top seed, needed only one break in each set to oust Venezuela's Nicolas Pereira 6-3, 6-4 in just 73 minutes. Courier, seeded third, downed Rodolphe Gilbert of France, 6-4, 6-4. Fourth-seeded Cedric Pioline of France and No. 5 Marc Rosset of Switzerland also won easily, while No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia struggled past France's Olivier Delaure 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 6-3.

Boli set for Glasgow Rangers

MARSEILLE (AFP) — Olympique Marseille defender Basile Boli is set to sign for Glasgow Rangers, it was revealed here Tuesday. Marseille said their French international was contacted by the Scottish champions Monday and is expected to fly to Glasgow for a medical before signing. Rangers are reported to have offered £2.7 million (\$4 million) for Boli, who headed the only goal in Marseille's European Cup win over AC Milan last year. Lazio, the other contender for Boli's signature, have been hesitating over whether to go ahead with the transfer.

Mansell mystery goes on

LONDON (AFP) — The Nigel Mansell mystery deepened Monday after Williams-Renault denied they were about to meet the former Formula One world champion for secret talks. Mansell, who quit Williams after winning the 1992 crown and defected to Indy Car racing, is currently in England and has been linked with a return to the team following the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola last month. But Williams Renault spokesman Ann Bradshaw said: "At this moment, Nigel Mansell has nothing arranged with Williams-Renault and we have no details about his trip."

Mansell, who won the Indy car crown last year in his debut season, is reportedly in England for family reasons but speculation has been growing he would contact Williams-Renault at their Didcot headquarters near Oxford for negotiations.



Judge: No shortened prison sentence for Mike Tyson

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A judge Monday refused to free former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, turning aside supporters' arguments that he has grown up since being imprisoned for the rape of a teen-age beauty pageant contestant.

Tyson, who refuses to apologize or admit he committed a crime, appeared in superior court to ask judge Patricia J. Gifford that his six-year sentence be reduced to the 26 months he has already served.

With time off for good behavior, Tyson now is scheduled to be released in May 1995. The Indiana and U.S. supreme courts have refused to hear his appeals.

Gifford said Tyson failed to meet the legal requirement of completing an education programme of a vocational programme.

Tyson was imprisoned after he was convicted of raping teen-age beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington in his hotel room in 1991.

Three witnesses testified Monday that he has improved his attitude and become interested in self-improvement since entering prison.

Under cross examination by deputy prosecutor Mark Sullivan, however, each of the three said they had never heard Tyson admit in raping Washington. He has contended all along that their sexual encounter was consensual.

In her ruling, the judge said she believed Tyson has begun a rehabilitation. But she said she wanted him to acknowledge that his "conduct without even admitting

guilt was inexcusable, and I have not heard that."

Before Gifford's ruling, Tyson admitted he behaved rudely toward Washington and used "bad judgment."

Asked by Sullivan if he would now admit to rape, Tyson replied, "No, not at all. I don't take any responsibility for raping anyone. I have done no criminal conduct... I committed no crime. I never violated anyone's chastity."

"I believe I'm innocent of this charge and I don't have any reason to apologize," he said.

Tyson accepted the decision with apparent resignation. He had his arms on the defence table, resting his head on his hands, when the decision was announced, and he remained motionless.

A few moments later, deputies led him from the courtroom for the trip back to prison.

Although Tyson failed a high school equivalent exam in March, he has continued taking courses and plans to retake the exam later this month. A passing grade could qualify him for a six-month sentence reduction.

One of Tyson's witnesses Monday was Evan Phemster, a unit manager who supervised about 500 inmates at the Indiana Youth Centre. He testified Tyson had made a great deal of progress since he was sent to prison in 1992. "His attitude and demeanor are much better," Phemster said. He said Tyson had been withdrawn but later his attitude began "more upbeat."

Phemster testified that when Tyson learned he had



Mike Tyson

failed the exam, he "mentioned that he was going to have to work harder. He was not sulley. He was not bitter. I was impressed with the way he took the news."

Camille Ewald, who had been Tyson's guardian and has visited him several times in prison, said she still believes Tyson is innocent but that prison has been good for him "because it has helped him to grow up."

"He's interested in study-

ing, he's interested in books. He's interested in making something of his life once he gets out," she said.

Mohammad Siddiq, who has tutored Tyson in prison, said, "I see growing in Mr. Tyson and a sincere desire and love for knowledge."

Sports Illustrated had reported its June 13 issue that Tyson's lawyers had cut a deal for his early release that included a cash settlement with Ms. Washington.

Wimbledon shuffles 'men's seeds

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Andre Agassi and Todd Martin were the main beneficiaries Monday when the seedings were announced for Wimbledon.

Agassi, champion two years ago, was seeded no. 12, five places above his world rankings. The flamboyant American has dropped in the rankings due to a long layoff at the start of the year following wrist surgery.

Martin, who beat Pete Sampras Sunday in the final of the Queen's Club tournament, was rewarded with the no. 6 seeding, three spots above his world ranking.

As expected, defending champions Sampras and Stefan Edberg were named the top seeds for the tournament, which starts next Monday.

But, while Wimbledon officials stayed with the world rankings for all 16 women's seeds, they departed from the men's list to benefit players such as Agassi, Martin, Boris Becker, Jim Courier and Goran Ivanisevic at the expense of higher-ranked clay court specialists. Wimbledon is the only one

of the four Grand Slam tournaments which reserves the right to deviate from the world rankings in the seedings. The changes are designed mainly to take into consideration a players' record on grass.

The top three men's seeds went according to the rankings. Sampras, Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg. But from then on, the seedings varied. Three-time Wimbledon champion Becker's proven grass-court prowess earned him the no. 7 seed, though he is ranked 10th.

Courier, runner-up at Wimbledon last year, was seeded fifth, two places above his ranking. Ivanisevic, runner-up in 1992, was seeded one spot ahead of his ranking at no. 4.

Three players who are not ranked in the top 16 were seeded, Switzerland's Marc Rosset (14), Russian sensation Yevgeny Kafelnikov (15) and Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch (16).

Clay-court specialists with little success on grass were demoted in the seedings.

Sydney Olympic chief says no

SYDNEY (AFP) — Sydney's Olympic preparations suffered a setback here Tuesday after the man chosen to head the event pulled out at the last minute.

Organising committee president Gary Pemberton, expected to reveal who had been chosen as the 2000 Games chief executive, instead revealed the hitch, adding he suspected the salary on offer was too low.

Pemberton said \$295,000 was probably not enough to attract top-calibre candidates.

He revealed the chosen man had withdrawn "in favour of an alternative offer from his current employer."

Pemberton, chairman of the Australian national airline Qantas as well as the Sydney Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (SOCOG), went on a "seven-figure package" would be paid for the equivalent position in the private sector.

But the SOCOG would not be offering that much and would not ask the New South Wales state government for permission to give more money.

The SOCOG would go back "to square one" in its bid to find a chief executive officer, Pemberton said, adding that in the meantime he would take over the role himself.

He also argued: "Sydney is generally ahead of schedule for the staging of the games," Pemberton said in a statement. "It is important that this setback does not affect our progress."

New South Wales state Premier John Fahey said the proposed SOCOG chief executive officer had been offered "megabucks" to stay with his current employer and the government would not be engaging in a chequebook competition to gain his services.

He said: "I don't see there is any loss or any hiccup in the process. It does indicate of course that out there in the big wide world there is always a dollar that will buy back someone."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran to free German sentenced to death

BONN (AFP) — Iran is to free a German national who had been sentenced to death for spying for Iraq, German authorities said Tuesday as the Iranian foreign minister held talks with his German counterpart. Chancellor Helmut Kohl had appealed for clemency for 59-year-old Helmut Schimkus during a meeting Monday with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who is on a private visit to Bonn. Mr. Schimkus, a mechanical engineer arrested in 1989 and sentenced to death last year, is to be released in the next few weeks and sent back to Germany, officials said. On Tuesday, Mr. Velayati conferred with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, a former BND intelligence agency chief who had given high priority to the Schimkus affair and had even visited the prisoner in jail during a trip to Iran in 1992. The Iranian newspaper Rassefat quoted an informed source as saying the Velayati visit would help "the two countries lift some obstacles in their relations." It did not elaborate.

Sudanese rebels confirm fall of HQ

NAIROBI (AFP) — Sudanese rebels on Tuesday confirmed that government forces had overrun their administrative headquarters in the army's latest advance since it launched a major offensive six months ago. A spokesman for the southern rebels fighting the Khartoum government said the rebels had abandoned their base at Kajo Kaji, near the southern border with Uganda, without offering resistance. "We have decided to change from defence to siege in Kajo Kaji," said Steven Wondu, a spokesman for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Khartoum announced Sunday that its forces had captured the town last week. Mr. Wondu said the rebels were trying to surround the town and cut the government's supply lines.

U.N. suspends relief flights in Angola

HARARE (AFP) — The United Nations relief agency, the World Food Programme, has cancelled all relief flights in Angola after the rebel UNITA's refusal to grant security guarantees for this week, a WFP regional information officer announced Tuesday. Mercedes Sayagues told a news conference here that the blanket suspension, the first this year, was effective from Monday because UNITA did not give it the weekly clearance to fly to the various destinations of the war-torn country. The clearance, done once a week, was supposed to have been granted Friday, so Monday, the WFP decided to cancel all the air lift operations. However, overland deliveries are not affected but these are quite restrictive and account for only one third of the agency's total food aid distribution.

Pakistan denies illegal nuclear transfer

BONN (AFP) — The Pakistani embassy Tuesday dismissed as "rubbish" allegations that some of its diplomats had organised the illegal transfer of nuclear material to Pakistan and accused India of spreading such rumors. In a broadcast aired Monday, the German public television channel ARD reported that a German company had supplied Pakistan with gas ultra-centrifugal parts used to produce enriched uranium as well as sensitive rocket equipment. It charged that the transfer had been coordinated from the Pakistani embassy here and that two Pakistani diplomats had recently been ordered to leave Germany. A ranking embassy diplomat, who asked not to be named, told AFP that it was "unthinkable" that embassy staffers would be involved in such activities which are "against diplomatic norms." "Nobody (no Pakistani diplomat) was told to go away, or declared persona non grata." In Islamabad, a foreign ministry spokesman also denied Monday that Pakistani diplomats had been expelled from Germany.

Poli shows Japanese government shaky

TOKYO (AFP) — A majority of members of parliament (MPs) would support a non-confidence motion against the government of Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, although almost as many said they would not and a large number were still undecided, a poll showed Tuesday. The poll by the Asahi Shimbun newspaper June 4-11 covering 475 of the 511 lower house members of parliament found that 179 of them would support a non-confidence motion while 173 said they opposed it and 123 were undecided. Leaders of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have said the party was ready to submit a no-confidence motion against Mr. Hata's minority cabinet as soon as the government's fiscal 1994 budget cleared parliament. The second largest opposition group, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), formerly a member of the coalition government, has also said it might support the motion.

Would-be members attend EU summit

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — Four countries which have negotiated to join the European Union (EU) in 1995 are to take part in an EU summit next week as though they were already members, the union said here on Tuesday. The current chairman of the EU's council of foreign ministers, Theodoros Pangalos, said the leaders of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden would join the summit on the Greek island of Corfu on Friday next week. Also invited to the summit is President Boris Yeltsin, who is scheduled to sign a partnership and cooperation accord between the EU and Russia.

Ramzi named to head radio and TV

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers on Tuesday announced the appointment of Issam Ramzi as director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation to succeed Radi Al-Khas who resigned earlier this year. Mr. Ramzi had served as director of programmes at Jordan Television and Radio before going to Oman where he was head of the Omani Radio's programmes department. Later he joined the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) and served as its director general until his appointment in Jordan.

Arafat, Rabin and Peres to meet

PARIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat and Israel's prime minister and foreign minister, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, will meet at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO on July 6, officials at the world cultural body said on Tuesday. The three men will attend a ceremony to receive the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's Felix Houphouët Boigny Peace Prize for 1993, which they were awarded last September four days after signing an historic peace agreement. French President Francois Mitterrand said on Tuesday that the Israeli and Palestinian people would lose confidence in peace if their leaders did not speed up the implementation of their historic agreement. Mr. Mitterrand was speaking in the presence of the Israeli and PLO negotiators of last year's Oslo peace accord, Uri Savir and Ahmad Qouriea (Abu Alaa) at a ceremony in which he presented the European of the Year award to Marianne Heilberg, widow of the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johann Jorgen Holst. Mr. Holst and his wife acted for months as secret mediators between Israel and the PLO, hosting talks at their private home and at a government residence outside Oslo to promote last September's accord.

Israeli torture goes on — rights group

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli interrogators continue to torture Palestinians on the occupied West Bank after withdrawing from most of Gaza and Jericho, a human rights group charged Wednesday.

"Both the General Security Services and the Israeli (army) systematically and severely abuse Palestinians who are being held for interrogation," Human Rights Watch says in a 316-page study.

"Such practices could undermine the Cairo agreement of May 4 which requires Israel and the Palestinian Authority to exercise their powers with due regard to internationally accepted norms and principles of human rights and the rule of law," the New York-based body said.

"A remarkable aspect of Israel's ill-treatment of Palestinians under interrogation is the huge number of persons who experience it," said Human Rights Watch's Eric Goldstein.

"Most" of several thousands of Palestinians interrogated in the last six years suffered a combination of abuses often over three weeks or more, which are not "isolated excesses but constitute a pattern that could persist only with the acquiescence of the government."

The army is still deeply involved and its interrogators "inflict beatings routinely in combination with methods of abusive body positions and sensory deprivation."

"Israel's two main interrogation agencies in the occu-



A Palestinian policeman tries to hold back chained Palestinian protesters in Jericho demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails (AFP photo)

ried territories engage in a systematic pattern of ill-treatment and torture — according to internationally recognised definitions of the terms — when trying to extract information from Palestinian security suspects confessions or information about third parties," the report said.

"This pattern has continued in 1994, despite the peace process now under way."

Asked on Tuesday about the report after Human Rights Watch provided advance copies to journalists, the Israeli general in charge of the West Bank denied physical abuse was routine in interrogation centres.

"Forget it. It is not true. We are doing our best to prevent it and to behave like human beings," Major-General Ilan Biran, chief of Israel's central command,

told a news briefing on the general situation in the Jericho area.

Human Rights Watch called on Washington to say publicly that Israeli practices amount to "systematic torture" and that one of the state bodies involved is the Israeli army, the main beneficiary of \$1.8 billion in annual U.S. military aid.

The United States, the group said, should tell Israel

that future aid levels would depend on palpable progress towards curbing abuses.

"U.S. law prohibits the government from providing military or economic aid to any government that engages in systematic torture," the report said.

Human Rights Watch said uncooperative detainees were subjected to a "coordin-

(Continued on page 9)

Senate, House hold joint session today to thrash out disputed law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament hold a joint session today to discuss and agree on certain disputed clauses and articles in the revised municipal law and the landlords and tenants law. The Lower House had referred the two laws for the Upper House (Senate) after proposing some amendments.

The Senate met Tuesday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and endorsed most of the amendments proposed by the House.

It endorsed an amendment proposed by the Lower House, setting the

qualification for contestants for mayoral posts. According to the amendments, contestants for mayoral posts in the centres of governorates should hold a university degree. Aspirants for such posts at the district level should have a general secondary certificate; at the sub-district level they should be literate.

The Senate also endorsed an amendment proposed by the House under which elections of mayors will be held simultaneously throughout Jordan during the first half of July 1995.

The amendment authorised the minister of municipal and rural affairs to postpone the elections for a

period of no more than six months if such postponement would serve public interest and the integrity of elections.

However, the two Houses differed for the second time over certain clauses in the two draft laws thus making it constitutionally necessary to hold a joint session, Mr. Lawzi said.

Mr. Lawzi said that the session should be considered legal if an absolute majority of the Parliament members attend.

The decision reached at the joint session will be valid, provided it is endorsed by a two-third majority of the members present, Mr. Lawzi added.

Kurds say 51 killed in attack

ANKARA (R) — An Iraqi Kurdish faction said on Tuesday that gunmen from a rival group killed 51 people in an attack on a funeral procession in northern Iraq as leaders from the two groups held peace talks in Turkey.

But U.N. sources in Suleimaniyah, where the shooting took place on Monday, put the death toll at just 14 and said the town was quiet on Tuesday.

A statement from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said fighters of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) had fired from rooftops at mourners in the centre of Suleimaniyah.

"As a result, 51 persons were instantly killed and over 40 were injured," the state-

ment, issued in Washington, said. "The victims included many women and youngsters."

A London-based representative of the PUK, Latif Rashid, described the KDP account as a "complete fabrication" and accused KDP fighters of killing 12 people and wounding 46.

KDP fighters escorting the procession had fired on PUK offices in Suleimaniyah without provocation, causing the casualties, he said, adding PUK guerrillas had not fired back.

"I hope this was an isolated incident, not premeditated. If it was planned, the consequences would be very bad," he added.

A spokesman for the U.N.

guards' contingent in Suleimaniyah said: "Only 14 were killed but around 42 were injured."

He had no clear details on precisely what happened but, speaking by telephone from Suleimaniyah, he told Reuters the town was "back to normal" on Tuesday.

The KDP statement said the attack occurred during the funeral for a KDP commander, Osman Kader Munawwar, killed in clashes with the PUK in the Penjwin area a few days ago.

"The KDP and all those who have been trying to conclude a settlement and reconciliation are shocked at this appalling massacre of innocent civilian mourners by the PUK," it said.

2 journalists fined for violating press law

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The former editor-in-chief of Al Ahali weekly newspaper, Jamil Nimri, and reporter Ramadan Rawashdeh were found guilty Tuesday of violating one article of the Press and Publications Law and were ordered to pay fines amounting to JD 500 each in addition to court costs.

Defence lawyers took immediate steps to appeal the decision, which was taken by Amman's first instance court, Mr. Rawashdeh told the Jordan Times.

The case would now go to the Court of Appeals, which can either uphold or overrule the decision, and later can be heard by the Court of Cassation, the highest legal authority in the Kingdom.

The ruling came after a two-month trial in which Al Ahali newspaper stood accused of violating article 40/A2 of the Press and Publications Law, which was passed by the 11th Parliament and came into effect in the middle of 1993, and article 191 of the penal code.

The first article forbids publications of "news items, drawings or commentaries disparaging the Armed Forces or the security apparatus." Article 191 forbids publications that slander government organisations.

Mr. Nimri and Mr. Rawashdeh had pleaded not guilty to the charges, which are punishable by a maximum fine of JD 1,000 or 500 days imprisonment.

Al Ahali is the mouthpiece of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party (Hashd). It

is licensed under a provision in the law which allows every registered political party to have its own publication.

Mr. Nimri resigned from his job as chief editor of Al Ahali late last year at the same time when the party was planning to relieve him of his duties for writing articles that the party felt did not serve its interests. The council had nothing to do with the law suit, Mr. Nimri said.

The trial of Mr. Nimri and Mr. Rawashdeh began on April 18, several months after a legal complaint was sent by head of the Press and Publications Department Mohammad Amin to Amman's public prosecutor who in turn pressed charges.

Mr. Amin initiated the case over the newspaper's coverage of a State Security Court trial where 10 men were accused of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein.

Under the Press and Publications law, several cases have been filed against mainly tabloid and political party weeklies. The judge who heard the Al Ahali case, Mansour Al Hadidi, was recently appointed to handle all legal cases pertaining to press and publications.

The Al Ahali case is the third of its kind.

On May 16 the Jordan Times chief editor and one of its reporters were also sentenced to JD 300 each.

Al Bilad weekly newspaper editor and one of the reporters earlier in May were also sentenced and ordered to pay JD 1,400.

All four have appealed the verdicts.

Princess Royal 'groomed' as consort to future king

LONDON (AFP) — Anne, the Princess Royal, was to receive Britain's highest order of chivalry amid reports she was being groomed as consort for the Prince of Wales when he becomes king. The 43-year-old princess was to be invested by her mother, Queen Elizabeth II, with the Order of the Garter in the Throne Room at Windsor Castle. A report in the Daily Express suggested the honour was part of a secret Buckingham Palace strategy to make Princess Anne a consort for her brother when he ascends the throne without his wife, Princess Diana, at his side. Prince Charles and Princess Diana have been formally separated for a year-and-a-half. The paper said the move was prompted by fears there would soon be no senior royal women to help shoulder the responsibilities of the monarchy. It was reported the consort role would allow the Princess Royal to represent the royal family on an increasing number of occasions. Princess Diana late last year announced she was withdrawing from public appearances, saying she was upset by the glare of publicity and the constant attention of the press. The Order of the Garter, to be granted amid pomp and ceremony dating back to the Middle Ages, was also seen as recognition for Princess Anne's public and charitable works. In being invested as Lady of the Garter, she joined the Queen, Queen Mother, Prince of Wales and Duke of Edinburgh among the elite ranks of an order founded by King Edward III. Unlike male members of the order, who wear the garter just below the left knee, the Princess Royal will wear hers on the left arm.

20 win 'genius grants'

CHICAGO (AP) — Before he was officially declared a genius, Willie Reale was sitting in Hell's Kitchen, a rough New York neighbourhood, thinking about buying a pair of black shoes. Then he heard the news: He was one of 20 Americans named as 1994 fellows of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. With the honour came a \$235,000 "genius grant," no strings attached. Mr. Reale, a 31-year-old playwright, said he just might use the money to buy those black shoes. "I don't imagine I'll be changing my lifestyle much," Mr. Reale said from his office at the 52nd Street Project, a theatre company he founded for inner-city children. "I'm already doing what I want to do. I'll just be breathing more easily." Since 1981, the MacArthur Foundation, whose founder made his fortune in insurance, has given out more than \$120 million to 414 fellows.

Man charged with beating baby to death

MARSEILLE, France (AFP) — A truck driver aged 34 was arrested on charges of beating his two-month-old daughter to death allegedly because she would not stop crying, police said. The mother was away when the beating is said to have occurred. "He came home and found the infant in a coma," the baby later died in a hospital. Hospital officials alerted police, who arrested the father. The man said he had only "shaken" the baby, police said.

Police nab Georgian grave robbers

TBILISI (AFP) — Three men accused of unearthing corpses from cemeteries here and stealing gold teeth and other valuables from the dead bodies have been arrested and charged, police said Sunday. A spokesman named the three as Vakhtang Gigichkori, Bessik Kvezereli and Alexander Laperashvili and said they had confessed to some of the grave robbing that have taken place in Tbilisi over the past three months. The three men were arrested last week in the city's Sagori cemetery, the spokesman added.

Iraq hikes travel tax in moves to control chaotic economy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In its latest move to curb the flight of foreign currency and the drop in the value of the dinar, the Iraqi government has hiked a travel tax imposed on Iraqi nationals along with other moves to shore up the economy, Iraqi officials and travellers said Tuesday.

The increase of the travel tax to 40,000 Iraqi dinars (\$128,000 in the official rate of \$3.2 to the dinar but worth \$90 in the widely used unofficial rate) from 15,000 dinars took effect on June 8, they said.

In terms of Iraqi dinars, the amount is beyond the reach of the average wage-earner in the country, where monthly income ranges between 600 and 3,000 Iraqi dinars in the civil service.

Army volunteers get a starting salary of 1,000 dinars and conscripts half of that. The increase ensures only those with income in foreign currency from abroad and those in emergency situations would leave Iraq, observers

noted. Officials travelling on assignments are exempt. The Baghdad government imposed the travel tax in early 1993 in a bid to check the massive exodus of Iraqis into Jordan, carrying with them the foreign currency that the government needs badly.

The tax led to an immediate drying up in the number of Iraqis coming to Jordan. According to border and airport statistics, 233,000 Iraqis crossed into Jordan and 245,990 left the Kingdom compared with 570,000 and 585,000 respectively in 1992. It was not known how many of the travellers were officials.

The increase in travel tax came as part of Iraqi moves to restore some order to the chaotic state of its economy and was coupled with incentives to government officials and military personnel.

Iraqi media reported Sunday that President Saddam Hussein, who took over the prime ministry late last month, has ordered a salary increase for civilian and military officials with effect from July 1.

In addition, military offi-

cers were given extra allowances. However, the increases were not expected to bring about any major shift in the way of life for Iraqis, who have seen prices rising several hundred-fold since the imposition of international sanctions in August 1990 following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

For instance, observers said, 200 dinars (\$640 at the official rate and 23 cents in the unofficial market) could buy half a kilogramme of meat.

A senior Iraqi minister was quoted as saying on Monday that the government was spending up to \$90 million, or 40 billion Iraqi dinars at the unofficial rate, in subsidies for food and other essential commodities.

Government subsidies are the mainstay support for Iraq's 18 million people, whose country is denied its vital oil exports for foreign exchange. However, subsidised food can meet only half of an average families' needs and Iraqis have to turn to the open market, where prices have gone up several

hundred-fold since the Gulf crisis.

Minister of Trade Mohammad Mehdi Saleh was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the subsidies cover flour, rice, sugar, cooking oil, salt and detergents as well as "other needs" of the Iraqis.

The Iraqi government is also offering incentives to encourage farming in the country through subsidised seeds, plants and pesticides, he said.

Government agencies also buy up all grain and agricultural produce and do not allow any private marketing of these items with a view to blocking higher prices in the market, Petra reported.

One of the first acts of President Saddam after taking over the prime ministry was empowering members of the ruling Baathist Party to crack down on the black market and profiteering traders.

The move led to a temporary rise in the value of the Iraqi dinar. The exchange rate in the Baghdad market was 420 dinars to the dollar last week, but the rate rose to 450 dinars to the greenback

this week, dealers in Amman said.

"People expected Saddam's moves to bring about overnight changes and decline in prices," said an expert on the Iraqi scene. "But when it appeared that the president was trying to manoeuvre around without adding any input to the economy to stabilise the dinar and prices, and traders were continuing to exploit the market, people were disappointed," said the expert, a frequent traveller to Iraq.

According to the expert and other watchers, President Saddam is trying to streamline the economy ahead of the possible easing of the sanctions.

"An easing if not outright lifting of the sanctions appears to be a basic component of the Iraqi leader's strategy," said a western diplomat. "Unless and until Iraq could resume oil exports, there is little chance that the Baghdad government could do anything significant to improve the living standards of its people."